



Jordan Times

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جوردان تايمز: صحيفة سياسية مستقلة منشورة من قبل نقابة الصحافة الأردنية

Czechs seek Soviet pullout

PRAGUE (AP) — Czechoslovakia is seeking complete withdrawal of all 75,000 Soviet troops stationed on its territory by the end of the year in negotiations with Soviet officials that began Monday, sources said. The Czechoslovak side would like a commitment from the Soviets that at least half their troops will leave Czechoslovakia by mid-May, the sources said, on condition of reciprocity. "The idea is to have them (Soviets) make a political commitment during these talks that all the troops will leave by the end of the year," a source said. Czechoslovak President Vlastislav Jirasek was invited to Moscow at the beginning of February and plans to make Prague's demands for a speedy withdrawal of Soviet troops. Foreign Ministry spokesman Jiri Sedlacek said that the level of full withdrawal of the estimated 75,000 Soviet troops from Czechoslovak territory by the end of the year. "I want that the Soviet troops should withdraw from Czechoslovakia by the end of 1990," Sedlacek said last week. Deputy Foreign Minister Jiri Topol said the Czechoslovak delegation to the talks, and his counterpart from Moscow is leading the Soviet side.

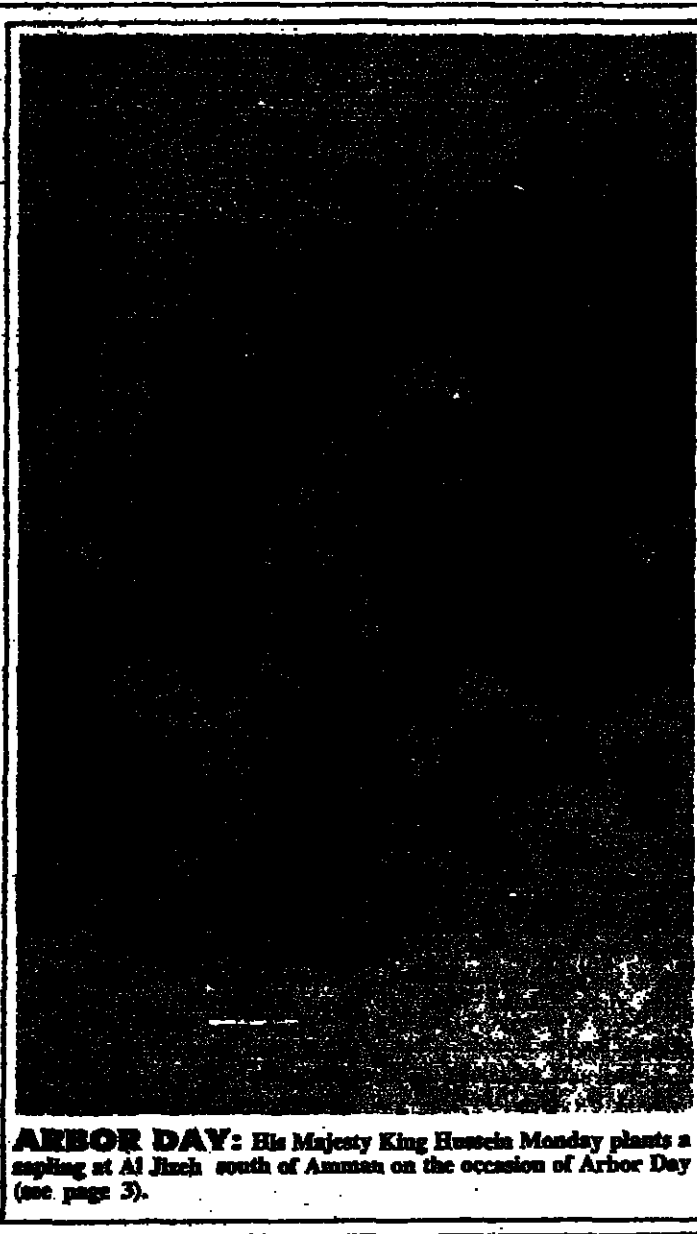
Badran due in Baghdad today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Madaar Badran will leave for Baghdad Tuesday to attend a two-day Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) ministerial committee meeting. The prime minister will be accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Qasbi, Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Ibrahim Ayyash, Minister of Industry and Trade Ziyad Faris, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Tabet Al Tabar, and the director of the prime minister's office. The meeting will prepare for an ACC summit meeting in Amman. Prime Ministers Arafat of Egypt and Abdul Aziz Ghannouchi of North Yemen and Iraq's First Deputy Premier Taha Yassin Ramadan will participate in the meeting along with Badran. Hehaz Nassar, secretary general of the Amman-based ACC, said the ministers will discuss regional and international political and economic issues and set an agenda for the Amman summit. Nassar said diplomats and political experts from the four countries started meetings here Sunday to prepare an agenda for the meeting.

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Egypt seeks to revive effort

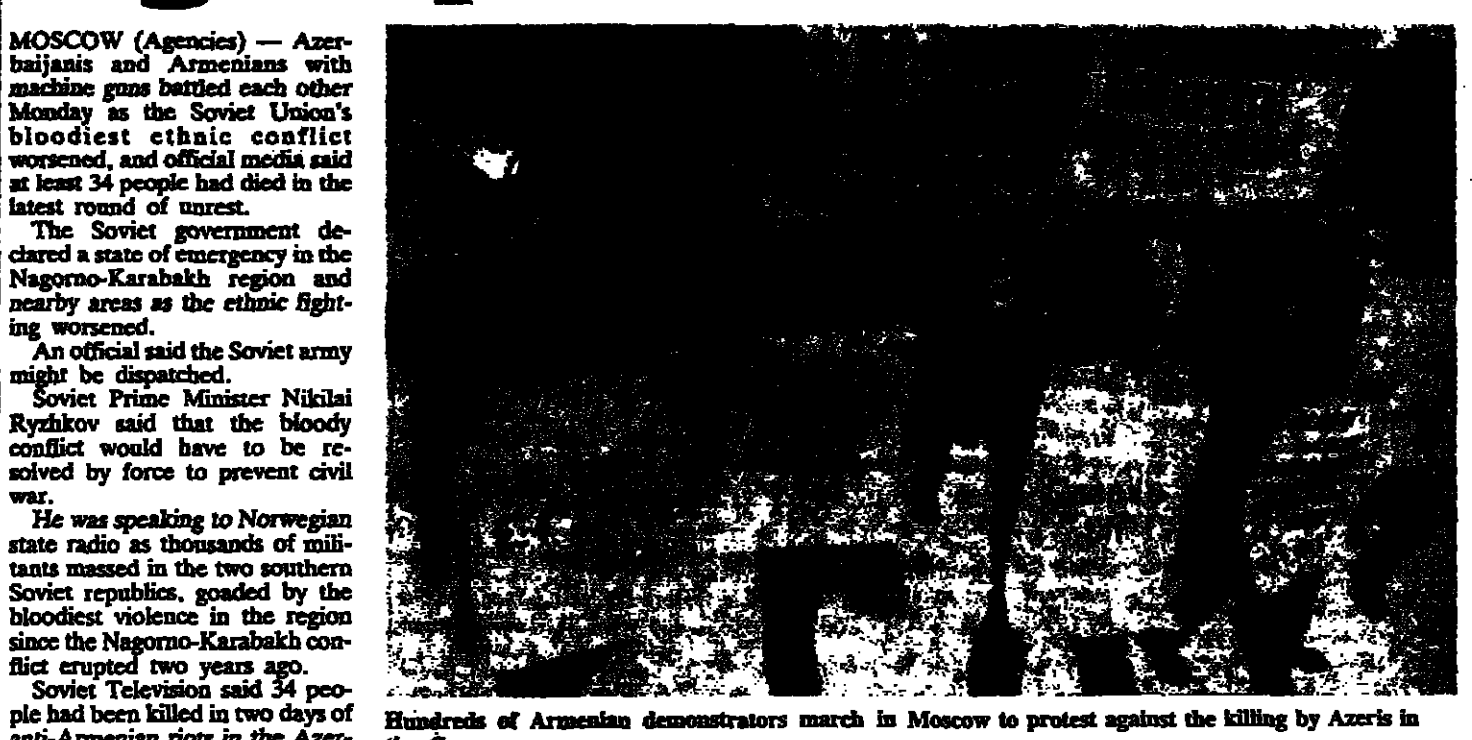
CAIRO (Agencies) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Ezzat Abdel Meguid will visit Washington this week to discuss Middle East peace moves, officials said Monday. The minister would deliver a message from President Hosni Mubarak on Cairo's efforts to bring Israel and Palestinians together in their first-ever dialogue, the officials said. U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has urged the Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers to meet him for preparatory talks to meet in Washington, but it was not clear if Abdel Meguid would meet his Israeli counterpart, Moshe Arens. The unexpected trip by Abdel Meguid comes after two visits to Cairo in a week by Yasser Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) chairman. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said Monday that President Hosni Mubarak, who has been trying to start a dialogue between the PLO and Israel, is sending Osama Al Baz, director of the president's political office, with Abdel Meguid. The spokesman said they said other senior officials "are going to try and push forward Middle East peace efforts" with Baker. The trip is expected to last for several days, said the spokesman, who asked not to be identified by name under ministry regulations. In a dispatch from Washington,



ARBOR DAY: His Majesty King Hussein Monday plants a sapling at Al Jash south of Amman on the occasion of Arbor Day (see page 3).

Emergency in Karabakh; army may intervene

Azeris, Armenians fight pitched battles



Hundreds of Armenian demonstrators march in Moscow to protest against the killing by Azeris in the Caucasus

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Azerbaijanis and Armenians with machine guns battled each other Monday as the Soviet Union's bloodiest ethnic conflict worsened, and official media said at least 34 people had died in the latest round of unrest. The Soviet government declared a state of emergency in the Nagorno-Karabakh region and nearby areas as the ethnic fighting worsened. An official said the Soviet army might be dispatched. Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov said that the bloody conflict would have to be resolved by force to prevent civil war. He was speaking to Norwegian state radio as thousands of militants massed in the two southern Soviet republics, goaded by the bloodiest violence in the region since the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict erupted two years ago. Soviet Television said 34 people had been killed in two days of anti-Armenian riots in the Azerbaijan capital, Baku, and the situation in some districts was completely out of control. "The conflict seems to be hard to solve but the authorities won't allow this to become a civil war between the Azerbaijanis and the Armenians," Ryzhkov said. "The conflict... must be solved with the help of military power." He said the politburo could decide shortly to order a form of military rule and a curfew in the region. The riots broke out Saturday as Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev returned to Moscow from Lithuania, another hotbed of unrest where he attempted to curb moves towards secession. An Azerbaidzhan Communist Party official told Reuters by telephone that thousands of Azeris, armed with hunting rifles and stolen army weapons, were forming mobile detachments. The television said police and

Interior Ministry troops flown into Baku Sunday were taking measures "to protect Armenians on Azerbaijan territory." It said 660 Armenians had been evacuated from Baku by boat across the Caspian Sea to Krasnovodsk in the Central Asian Republic of Turkmenia. Azerbaijanis and Armenians with machine guns battled each other earlier Monday, according to reports from the scene. The Kremlin had already sent troop reinforcements to Azerbaijan to try to halt the worst fighting between the two ethnic groups since their long-simmering feud in the Caucasus boiled over nearly two years ago. Soviet media said authorities had lost control in some parts of the southern republic, where most of the victims were Armenians attacked by mobs of Azerbaijanis in Baku. Many Armenians were reported fleeing. The official Soviet news agency TASS said some Azerbaijanis were armed with machine guns, and that in one part of the republic, Communist and government officials were taken hostage. State-run television said 300 Armenians and Azerbaijanis fought in the Shaumyanovsk region of Azerbaijan, where Armenian and Azerbaijani villages coexist. It quoted a soldier as saying Armenians fought back with hunting rifles and Kalashnikov submachine guns when a group of Azerbaijanis tried to set fire to an Armenian farm. Attacks on the homes of Armenians living in Azerbaijan continued, with more killings and six more bodies found, the TV news programme Vremya said Monday night. Four of the dead were Armenians, and the others were of unidentified nationality, it said. Sevinty Abdulyeva, the chief editor of Azerbaijan's official news agency Azerinform, said in a telephone interview that Armenians hiding in the woods were firing on passing cars in Shaumyanovsk and an adjoining region. She said the Armenians were receiving guns and ammunition ferried in by unmarked helicopters. In Lithuania, independent-minded Communist Party chief Algirdas Brazauskas was elected president of the Baltic republic at a session of parliament. It appeared to be a solid vote of confidence in Brazauskas who in the past month has overseen the breakdown of the Lithuanian Communist Party from Moscow. In an acceptance speech, he said he would concentrate on achieving full economic independence.

Shamir: Occupied lands for immigrants Arab League voices 'concern' over Soviet influx to Palestine

TUNIS (Agencies) — An Arab League meeting on Palestinians in exile opened in Tunis Monday with a warning that Israel was planning to settle hundreds of thousands of East European Jews in the occupied territories. Mohammad Al Farra, the Arab League's assistant secretary general for Palestinian affairs, told the meeting of Arab officials that Israel had set aside hundreds of millions of dollars for the new immigrants, mostly from the Soviet Union. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Sunday that Israel had to hang on the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip for the newcomers. Israeli officials say they expect at least 300,000 Soviet Jews to move to Israel over the next three years. Palestinians are worried that many will come to the occupied territories and reinforce the Israeli settler presence. Farra said Arab states must respond with massive political and material support for the influx which broke out in the West Bank and Gaza in December 1987. In Damascus, Palestinian factional leader Nayef Hawatmeh has voiced concern at the swelling Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel in talks with Kremlin leaders, an aide said Monday. The official of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) said the issue was raised "in a friendly atmosphere" because of the links between the group and the Soviet leadership. The official, who did not wish to be named, said there were no differences between the DFLP and the Soviet government on the issue. He did not elaborate. He said the DFLP expressed its point of view and the Soviet leadership "promised to discuss this subject and to find a favourable solution confirming its insistence on a balanced solution to the issue." The official did not say when the meeting took place or which Soviet leaders took part. Shamir's suggestion that Soviet Jews be settled in the occupied lands sparked anew the country's debate over trading land for peace. In Damascus, Palestinian factional leader Nayef Hawatmeh has voiced concern at the swelling Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel in talks with Kremlin leaders, an aide said Monday.

Israeli soldier stabbed

OCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Unidentified attackers stabbed a woman Israeli soldier inside Jerusalem's Old City Monday, police said. A witness said the woman was stabbed six times in the back but not seriously wounded. Police rounded up several dozen Palestinians near the scene in the Arab sector of the city. Knife-wielding Palestinians attacked Israeli soldiers in Jerusalem several times last year. In February, Palestinians fatally stabbed an off-duty soldier outside the old city. In May, a Muslim fundamentalist knifed to death two Israelis in central West Jerusalem, sparking attempts by angry Jews to lynch passing Arabs. Katyusha attack Several Soviet-designed Katyusha rockets fired from South Lebanon landed in northern Israel before dawn Monday, causing no injuries or damage, the army said. The army said the rockets landed in the Galilee "peninsula" that protrudes into Lebanon. No further details were released by the army. The last reported rocket attack from Lebanon was Nov. 9. Israel Radio said the rockets were fired from north of Israel's self-declared "security zone," a four-to-20-kilometre deep strip in southern Lebanon designed as a buffer against resistance attacks. The zone is patrolled jointly by Israeli troops and some 3,000 militiamen from the South Lebanon Army (SLA), which is trained and financed by Israel. Israel carved out the zone in 1985 when it withdrew the bulk of its troops from Lebanon following the 1982 invasion and a three-year occupation of part of the country. Israel has blamed Palestinian guerrillas and the Iranian-backed Hizbollah for past rocket attacks. In the last month, a number of Katyushas have fallen short of Israeli territory and landed in "security zone," military sources said. In northern Israel, scores of angry farmers used tyres and rocks to close a main road near the Lebanon border, Israel Radio reported. Police used force to disperse the crowd, and several protesters were arrested, the radio said. It gave no other details. (see page 4).

Iraq says Turkey has given assurances over Euphrates

ANKARA (Agencies) — Iraq's oil minister Monday said Turkey has reaffirmed its assurances to share the waters of the Euphrates River, a matter which has recently acquired the potential to inflame tensions in the arid region. The minister, Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi, said Turkey's project to harness the waters would be to the benefit of neighbouring countries as well. Chalabi arrived Sunday, a day after Turkey diverted much of the Euphrates to fill the reservoir of its giant Ataturk Dam. He delivered a message from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to Turkish President Turgut Ozal. Chalabi said that he had "a very positive, an excellent talk" with Ozal. But neither side would comment on Turkey's answer to an Iraqi request that the water cut-off period be reduced from a month to two weeks. Turks have maintained that one month is the minimum time required for filling the reservoir of the 54-billion litre, the centrepiece of the massive southeast Anatolia project of 15 dams and 18 hydroelectric plants to be erected on the Euphrates and Tigris rivers. The blockage will seriously harm Iraq and could cause "a real agricultural disaster" in the long term, the ruling Baath party's newspaper, Al Thawra, warned in a front page editorial Sunday. The paper said an agreement between Turkey, Syria and Iraq was necessary for the sharing of the Euphrates waters "in a flexible way." The 2,330-kilometre Euphrates River originates in the mountains of eastern Turkey, runs first through Syria and then Iraq before joining the sea at the Gulf. So far, Syria has made no public statement on the issue, which has been brought to a head by Turkey's cut-off. Officials, who requested anonymity, have said that Turkey was unwilling to be confined in its utilisation of the river by any treaty. They said this would impinge on Turkey's sovereignty rights. There is no clearly binding rule in international law on rivers running through several countries except for a principle of good will and optimum and just sharing, said Turgut Ozal, a high-level

Foreign Ministry official, in an interview published by the independent daily Milliyet Sunday. "We are abiding by this principle. We could have said we had a very dry season, there is no water. But we did not do this," he told the newspaper. Iraq could not have too big a water problem because it makes full use of the Tigris River, Bleck added. For a month before the reduction of waters, Turkey released twice the usual amount downstream so southern neighbours could store it in their reservoirs, Turkish officials say. Chalabi, speaking to reporters after meeting Turkish Finance Minister Ekrem Pakdemirli, said: "We discussed the Euphrates... Turkey will do everything on its part to assure mutual interests, for results that are best for both sides." Pakdemirli said during his meeting with Chalabi, attended by reporters: "I don't think we have problems but always there are points to be discussed among friends, among brotherly countries."

Arab mediators meet on Lebanon

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Arab mediators seeking an end to Lebanon's civil war met Monday to discuss ways to save their seven-month peace effort from collapse. The foreign ministers of Algeria, Saudi Arabia and Morocco discussed a report on progress since an Arab peace plan was accepted by Lebanese members of parliament in October, an Algerian official said. Full implementation of the plan has been blocked by General Michel Aoun who wants guarantees that Syria will withdraw its 40,000 troops from Lebanon. The Algerian official said the ministers were to report to their heads of state, who were mandated to undertake the peace bid by an Arab summit last May. The heads of state will decide the next move, he said. The official Algerian news agency APS said the tripartite committee was giving the peace plan worked out in the Saudi Arabian city of Taif a last chance. "The committee sees a last chance for the Lebanese to profit from the Taif accord and reaffirm the credibility of legitimate government action in Lebanon and the importance of Arab financial and economic aid," the agency said. After a short meeting joined by Arab League troubleshooter Lakhdar Brahimi the ministers were received by Algerian President Chadli Benjedid. Brahimi held talks with Lebanese President Elias Hrawi, Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss and Speaker Hussein Hussein on Saturday. The Taif pact led to a shaky ceasefire and elections to fill the vacant post of president but Rene Muawad was assassinated 17 days after his election. His successor, Hrawi, has been unable to gain control of the Christian enclave where Aoun controls about half the Lebanese army. Syria said Monday that Lebanon was heading towards peace despite attempts by Aoun to hinder the process. "The official Syria Times said 'gigantic' local, Arab and international support for Hrawi's government would help bring about the downfall of Aoun." "It can be said now that Lebanon today is heading towards peace, security and stability despite all attempts to hinder the sincere and good efforts by all parties concerned," the English-language paper said. It said Hrawi should seek resources to rebuild the armed forces. The army is now split largely on sectarian lines. Several hundred demonstrators turned out Sunday to back protesters who have occupied Lebanon's embassy to France since last week in support of Aoun. Some of the demonstrators marched peacefully through the chancellery, occupied since Thursday by dozens of people protesting the government's plans to transfer diplomats supporting Aoun in the United States and Europe. Hoss meanwhile threatened to ask the French police to expel the protesters by force if Ambassador Fouad Turk cannot negotiate their departure over the next few days. The protesters have prevented embassy staff from entering the building and control the switchboard. They say they have received phone calls of support from Lebanese living in Britain and Italy.

Honecker, Mielke face treason charges

EAST BERLIN (Agencies) — Disgraced former East German leader Erich Honecker and ex-security police chief Erich Mielke face treason charges, the prosecutor general said Monday. Hans-Juergen Joseph told government-opposition round-table talks that Honecker and Mielke were also under investigation for forming unconstitutional organisations. Honecker, ditched as party leader and head of state last October, already faces corruption charges, as does Mielke. Mielke is in custody. Honecker is in hospital following cancer surgery last week. "From today the criminal proceedings against Honecker and Mielke have been extended to cover facts of the case under paragraphs 96 and 107 of the criminal code," said Joseph, who was appointed last week. Paragraph 96 covers high treason and 107 "unconstitutional amalgamation," meaning forming illegal groupings. Under the criminal code, treason can be punished by life imprisonment. Until East Germany abolished capital punishment in 1987 the death penalty was available for the crime. Those found guilty of setting up illegal organisations face up to 12 years in jail. Honecker, 77, was toppled under the pressure of huge demonstrations and a mass exodus to the west. He had run East Germany since 1971 and could face arrest once he recovers from the operation last Wednesday to remove a kidney tumour. Until recently he was under house arrest at the Wandlitz compound north of Berlin that had served as the guarded luxury retreat for the leadership for 30 years. Mielke, 82, was one of the ruling elite's most feared men, controlling the huge state security police until the day he quit last

Secret police HQ stormed

EAST BERLIN (AP) — Tens of thousands of East Germans stormed the secret police headquarters Monday afternoon, throwing furniture from windows and rampaging through the offices, witnesses and official news media said. The official news agency ADN said that "tens of thousands" had stormed the secret police headquarters. State-run television put the number at 100,000 and said the situation had gotten "out of control." Witnesses said protesters shouting, "we are the people, we are the people," went through offices at police headquarters, overturning furniture and scattering documents. Some of the protesters used stones to break through glass doors to get into the building, according to the witnesses. Several people took wine and other items from a store room, the witnesses said. The secret police are currently being disbanded. November. He and nine other members of Honecker's ruling politburo are already in custody. One of them, former economic supremo Guenter Mittag, could also face treason charges, a parliamentary corruption panel said last month. Meanwhile, Communist Premier Hans Modrow made a surprise appearance at talks with the opposition Monday, promising to open secret police files and appealing for an end to warning strikes.

Soviet diplomat explains official stand on Israel

Ties 'improving'; No initiative to revoke 'Zionism-is-racism' resolution; Syria going with the tide

NEW YORK (R) — A Soviet diplomat addressed a congregation of Jews at a temple in New York City Sunday, marking the first time that a representative of the Soviet Union has appeared in an official capacity at an American Jewish synagogue.

Veteran diplomat Oleg Derkovsky, a political counselor at the Soviet embassy in Washington with responsibility for Near and Middle East affairs, said his invitation to visit Temple Emanuel, the world's largest Reform Jewish congregation, on the Russian Orthodox New Year's Day, was "a symbol of new times, of changes for the better."

In response to questions from a friendly audience, Derkovsky said the Soviet Union had "a strong desire to reestablish relations with Israel but is discussing how best to do this from a practical point of view."

Derkovsky said relations between the Soviet Union and Israel were "improving." Moscow recalled its ambassador from Tel Aviv to protest against Israel's occupation of Arab territories after the June 1967 war.

Derkovsky said that in 1990 "a different atmosphere" prevails than in 1967 and that "dialogue gives us the opportunity to understand each other better."

The continued occupation of some of those territories is the main obstacle preventing the Soviet Union and Israel from resuming full diplomatic relations, Derkovsky said. He nonetheless observed that, through the consular missions Israel has in Moscow and the Soviet Union has in Tel Aviv, the Soviet Union's relations with Israel "are better than some countries with whom we have full diplomatic relations."

Asked whether the Soviet Union would support the repeal of the 1975 United Nations resolution equating Zionism with racism, Derkovsky said the Soviet Union believes to revive the debate over the issue would be counterproductive.

Zionism is the movement formerly for reestablishing, now for supporting, the Jewish state. "If someone were to suggest a 'Zionism is racism' resolution today, the Soviet Union would not support it," Derkovsky said. "But it does not depend on us entirely. Our present view is that bygone must be bygone."

Noting that no U.N. resolution has ever been repealed, Derkovsky said, "if we start such a process, it might be detrimental to the new atmosphere and might give a new forum to those who support (the resolution as it stands)."

Derkovsky, whose Middle East diplomatic postings began in 1961 in Iraq and ended in 1981 after a five-year stint in Egypt, said a campaign to repeal the "Zionism is racism" resolution would result "in many Arab countries immersing themselves in a discussion that would be futile instead of working to resolve conflicts."

Derkovsky called the predicament of Lebanon one of the world's most "mind-boggling" conflicts. "They are on a suicidal course and that is what I tell the Lebanese representatives who come to see me in Washington."

Derkovsky said Syria had reestablished relations with Israel because the Syrians "are clever enough not to go against the tide."

Derkovsky said he hoped new freedoms in the Soviet Union would not give rise to "right-wing anti-Semitism." He said anti-Semitism as a phenomenon in the Soviet Union "had receded to a great extent."

Derkovsky and reform Jewish leaders said the Soviet envoy's appearance was the first of its kind in the United States.

'Weizman wrong'
Israeli foreign ministry sources said Sunday that Science Minister Ezer Weizman was mistaken when he announced in Moscow last week that the Soviet Union had agreed to upgrade relations to the level of legations.

Weizman made the remark after talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, from which the head of Israel's consular mission in Moscow was excluded. It has not been confirmed by the Soviet government or media.

The sources said the Israeli mission had since clarified that no such promise was given to Weizman, and the only upgrading of which he was notified was the decision to raise the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) mission in Moscow to the status of an embassy.

Mission chief Aryeh Levine reported that Shevardnadze had only said he was thinking of putting some order into relations with Israel in the near future and correcting the status of the consular missions in Moscow and Tel Aviv.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, both of the right-wing Likud Party, rebuked the dovish Weizman of the Labour Party at a

cabinet meeting Sunday for holding unauthorized talks with Shevardnadze.

Shamir sacked Weizman two weeks ago for alleged contacts with the PLO, but later allowed him to stay in the government while removing him from the policy-making inner cabinet.

Weizman, who said on returning he had been tricked by the Kremlin over the upgrading of Soviet ties with the PLO, was not available to comment on the foreign ministry version.

Israeli-Czech air links
Israel said Sunday it had signed an agreement to establish air links with Czechoslovakia, one of the first steps towards resuming full relations.

The transport ministry said the agreement in principle for flights between Tel Aviv and Prague was signed in the Czechoslovak capital last week.

Israel's carrier El Al and CSA Czechoslovak Airlines are to begin scheduled flights this summer.

A Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry official who visited Israel last week said the two countries would soon restore full ties after 22 years. Prague followed the Soviet Union in severing ties with the Zionist state over the 1967 war.

Komana was the only East European country that did not break off ties.

Hungary last September became the first Warsaw Pact state to restore ties with Israel. Poland said this week it would resume full relations next month.

The Soviet Union and Israel have agreed to set up air links, but scheduled flights have yet to start.

An Israeli newspaper and army radio said Monday Israeli and East German officials are to meet in the next few days to discuss establishing diplomatic relations.

The meeting comes at the request of East Germany, which asked that the talks be held in a Western European capital, the Hebrew daily Maariv said. It did not give the proposed site for the talks.

Maariv said the meeting would be devoted to "all the controversial issues that prevent the establishment of diplomatic ties" between Israel and East Germany.

Officials at the Israeli foreign ministry said they were checking the report but had no immediate comment.

Army radio said the ministry was maintaining silence because of the sensitivity of the issue and East Germany's request for secrecy.



Azerbaijani protesters demanding closer ties with Iran not fire to meet domestic border installations

Iran reports continuing border crossing from Soviet Azerbaijan

NICOSIA (AP) — More than 30 Soviet Muslims using inflated tyre tubes swam across the Araks River into Iran, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Monday.

The broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, has reported dozens of such crossings since Shiite Muslim protests in Soviet Azerbaijan broke out Dec. 31.

Shiites in the Soviet province are demanding closer economic and cultural links with their ethnic co-religionists in northwest Iran amid the reformist wave sweeping Eastern Europe.

Some extremists are campaigning for complete reunification of the Soviet and Iranian Azerbaijan regions.

Azerbaijan, once completely ruled by Iran, was divided in 1828.

In 1941 the Red Army invaded northern Iran and set up a short-lived puppet republic after World War II. But the Soviets pulled out in 1946 under international pressure.

About 1,000 Soviet Muslims congregated on the Soviet bank of the Araks Sunday to watch their compatriots swim to the Iranian bank, while a similar number gathered on the other bank to receive them, the radio said.

Such gatherings are reported frequently in the Iranian media.

The radio quoted a 26-year-old Soviet Muslim who swam to Iran Sunday as saying that "the Soviet Muslims in Azerbaijan want to have cultural and economic relations with Iran."

A 30-year-old carpenter said "for years we were away from Islam, but now feel we must return to our kin," the radio reported.

The Soviet Azerbaijanis share a common culture, language and religion with their Iranian cousins, who constitute about one-third of Iran's 55 million population.

The Islamic resurgence has flared into mounting violence by militant Soviet Azerbaijanis in conflict with Soviet Armenians over who should govern the mostly Armenian enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh in Azerbaijan.

Twenty-five people were reported killed and dozens of members of both groups were wounded in clashes in Azerbaijan, the Soviet media reported Sunday.

The violence in Azerbaijan has heightened Soviet fears of Muslim unrest along its southern border with Iran.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said Saturday his country would welcome Soviet Muslims who wish to visit Iran, IRNA reported.

But the official Soviet news agency TASS said that following talks between Iranian and Soviet officials in Moscow and Baku, capital of Soviet Azerbaijan, Tehran had agreed to consider Soviet proposals to facilitate cross-border contacts and travel.

Calls for reunification of the Soviet and Iranian Azerbaijanis flared earlier this month when Soviet demonstrators rampaged for several days, tearing down border posts, watchtowers and communication lines.

Schools in Soviet Azerbaijan will soon begin teaching the Koran, IRNA said Monday.

The agency quoted Soviet Azeri poet Bakhtiar Vahhabzadeh as saying classes on the Holy Book were essential in Azerbaijan where people had been deprived of spiritual fulfillment for years.

IRNA said Vahhabzadeh made the remarks Sunday night on Soviet television broadcast from Baku, and monitored in Ardebil, near the Soviet border in north-west Iran.

EC berates Israel over treatment of marchers

TEL AVIV (R) — The European Community (EC) has protested to Israel in unusually sharp language about police violence against peace demonstrators in occupied Jerusalem.

The Italian embassy said in a statement that representatives of the EC presidency expressed serious concern to the Israeli foreign ministry Sunday at "the unjustified use of generalised violence against hundreds of people during authorised, peaceful demonstrations in Jerusalem Dec. 29 and 30."

At least 70 Palestinians and European sympathisers were injured when police used teargas, water cannon and rubber bullets at a demonstration organised by Israel's Peace Now movement, which favours negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Several hundred Italian leftists

were among the 20,000 demonstrators who formed a human chain around Jerusalem's walled old city.

Police commanders claimed they ordered the action after Arabs threw stones and bottles at Israeli forces and raised the Palestinian flag.

The EC statement also criticised recent Israeli measures banning Faisal Husseini and several other prominent Palestinian leaders from leaving the occupied territories. It said this was "not conducive to the climate of confidence necessary for any negotiations."

It also cited a recent Amnesty International report on human rights abuses and illegal use of live ammunition by Israeli troops in the occupied territories.

Israel has angrily denied the report.

Turkish police probe bombing of Saudi car

ANKARA (Agencies) — Turkish police investigating a bomb attack on a Saudi Arabian diplomat's car — the second in Ankara in three months — were trying Monday to find out the type of explosive used.

A Foreign Ministry official said no one had claimed responsibility for Sunday's attack on the parked Mercedes of Abdul Razak Kashimiri, a second secretary at the Saudi embassy.

"Police are carrying out laboratory tests to determine the type of explosive used," the official said. "There was a police car near where the blast occurred but security officials believe no one was seen to approach the vehicle."

Embassy officials were not immediately available for comment

on the blast, near Kashimiri's home and one kilometre from the official residence of President Turgut Ozal.

The car's windows were shattered but no one was hurt.

In October an accountant in the Saudi military attaché's office lost both legs in a car bomb attack.

An anonymous telephone caller to an international news agency in Cyprus, claiming to speak for the Lebanese-based pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad, said the group was responsible for the October attack.

Iranian legislators in September warned Saudi Arabia to expect revenge for the beheading of 16 Kuwaitis found guilty of involvement in bombings in the Holy city of Mecca.

Iraq slams U.S. for Libya sanctions

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq denounced U.S. President George Bush's decision to renew economic sanctions against Libya as a "wrong and harmful attempt to impose superpower will on a less powerful country."

Al-Thawra, mouthpiece of the ruling Baath Socialist Party, said the U.S. move should be totally rejected because it was using international economic relations for political purposes.

"This is a form of interference in the internal affairs of other states and an attempt to infringe their national sovereignty," Al-Thawra said in a front-page editorial.

On Jan. 4, Bush ordered a one-year extension to U.S. economic sanctions imposed on Libya in 1986 for allegedly supporting international terrorism.

He told congress that the crisis between the United States and Muammar Qaddafi's regime has not yet been resolved.

He claimed Tripoli still supported "terrorism" and poses "an extraordinary threat" to U.S. security and interests.

Reports in the Arab World indicate that Qaddafi has sent emissaries to Arab leaders asking them to use their influence with Bush to lift the sanctions.

A Libyan envoy, armed forces commander Brigadier Abu Bakr Yunis, visited Baghdad earlier this month and met President Saddam Hussein.

Iraqi officials declined comment on whether Baghdad has asked the United States to lift the sanctions or whether they were mediating between Tripoli and Washington.

Al-Thawra said it criticised the U.S. decision not because Libya is an Arab country, but because the use of "economic sanctions is a totally rejected method in international relations."

"This method not only inflicts harm on regimes, but peoples as well and makes problems and differences unbridgeable," the daily said.

Al-Thawra warned that economic sanctions could increase tension and jeopardise international security.

"The United States should be the first to realise the consequences of such an act refrain from punishing states which have different views and stop checking other countries policies," the daily said.

Iraq calls for Arab solidarity and rejects superpower interference in the Arabs' internal affairs, it noted.

Sudan also deplored the renewal of U.S. economic sanctions against Libya and called on the Bush administration to reconsider its decision.

A foreign ministry statement said the American decision was "a terrible blow to expectations and high hopes pinned on the prevailing international spirit of détente."

The statement said Sudan supported the Libyan position because Libya "in the past struggle for independence and freedom and is now striving to rid itself of all forms of subordination."

Sudan conveyed its views to other Arab countries through the Arab League, the statement added.

"The world aspires for fraternity and cooperation... and for the east-west conflict to develop into dialogue," the statement said.

Kuwaitis rally for parliament in 'diwanis'

By Patrick Werr
Reuters

KUWAIT — Kuwait's traditional "diwanis" have become controversial rallying points for people demanding a speedy return of the country's dissolved parliament.

The uniquely Kuwaiti institution has traditionally been a meeting ground for men to discuss politics, business or entertainment, and across the country several hundred diwanis can be in session on any night.

But in the last few weeks a well-organised group of Kuwaitis has launched a series of public rallies centred around diwanis to demand the return of parliament, dissolved at the height of the Gulf war in 1986.

Their actions have irritated many of their compatriots. "We are not happy at all with the method they are using. It is not the Kuwaiti style to raise such issues in public," said a prominent Kuwaiti who asked not to be identified.

Parliament was a feature of Kuwaiti life for most of the quarter century from independence to its dissolution in 1986 when the conflict between Iran and Iraq spilled over into the northern Gulf state.

At a pro-parliament diwani Saturday night, tiny cups of Arabian coffee and glasses of tea passed round as deputies of the dissolved assembly forcefully appealed for its return.

On Monday, the opposition plans the latest of its public

rallies at the house of former Deputy Faisal Al Sanea. Opposition members hope to attract thousands of supporters.

But the legal status of the rallies is hotly contested by the government.

The right of Kuwaitis to meet in diwanis is enshrined in law, but if there are more than 20 people the law forbids discussion between government and opposition sources agree.

The debate is into which category the public rallies fit.

The diwanis have been closely linked to political movements in Kuwait throughout the 20th century, and when the national assembly was operating, each politician had a diwaniya to which he was closely linked.

The diwanis are usually connected to a house but some have been set up in more prominent spots on main roads.

The larger ones meet once a week, but smaller ones might meet several times. A few offer dinner to their guests, others provide snacks. The men often gather simply to play cards.

Women are not allowed. At some, low-powered FM radio transmitters broadcast political speeches, and cassette copies of the speeches are distributed privately around the city.

Government ministers and members of the ruling Sabah family are frequent visitors to the diwanis, even those known for their pro-parliament leanings.

At some of the pro-government diwanis, the old assembly has been bitterly criticised, with members being accused of using their positions for personal gain.

But even at these diwanis, some Kuwaitis argue for the return of some form of public participation in government, suggesting a system of checks and balances on a future assembly.

Opposition members said they started their movement about a year ago by circulating in the diwanis a petition for the return of parliament, to give to the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah. They said the response was enormous and they began contacting more and

more diwanis. The emir has so far refused to receive the petition.

Developments in Eastern Europe and elections in Jordan and North Yemen fuelled the movement, say opposition members.

"Kuwait was a leader in democracy in the region, and now people see other countries moving ahead of it," said one.

In early December they launched a series of public meetings at the house of former Deputy Jasssem Qatani, who, like other deputies of the dissolved assembly, still enjoys immunity under the law.

Police broke up a second meeting at another deputy's house the following week and a third Jan. 8.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE
15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programmes
16:00 News summary in Arabic
16:05 Local programme
16:10 Agricultural programme
16:15 Programme review
16:20 News in Arabic
16:25 Arabic series
16:30 Programme review
16:35 Local programme
16:40 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO
17:20 Lucifer
17:30 Des Chiffres Et de Lettres
17:35 L'Appart
17:40 News in French
17:45 Aujourd'hui en Jordanie
17:50 News in Hebrew
17:55 News in Arabic
18:00 Mr. Belvedere
18:05 Real Charlotte
18:10 News in Arabic
18:15 Hunter

PRAYER TIMES

06:11 Fajr
06:32 (Sunrise) Duha
11:45 Dhuhur
14:33 'Asr

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Swetish Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785, 663326
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624390
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 623566
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 623543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772661
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 811265
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811265
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815617, 654932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be relatively cold and partly

cloudy to cloudy with possible scattered showers. Winds will be light and variable becoming westerly moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 3 / 11
Aqaba 11 / 19
Dumana 2 / 14
Jordan Valley 8 / 18

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Selim Al Khayyat 791880
Dr. Rifa' Abu Zuhra 894293
Dr. Walid Sahawneh 779997
Dr. Abdul Majid Al Shara 791405
First pharmacy 661912
Foreign pharmacy 778336
Al Aqsa pharmacy 637055
Nasrallah pharmacy 623672
Al Salem pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Shamash pharmacy 637660
HEROD:
Dr. Moustafa Al Sheikh Salem (—)
Al Shamsa pharmacy (985236)
ZARQA:
Dr. Ghassan Al Faqih (—)
Khalifah pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630541
Rescue 159
Rescue Police 152, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 891467
Complaints 767111
Amman Municipality 767111
Complaints 767111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RU Flight Information 86-3200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 86-3200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Fleisch Medical Centre 81381/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 64281/6
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 64281/6
Jabal Amman Maternity 64282
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsani 664171/4
Shamsani Hospital 665151
University Hospital 843402
Al-Musader Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Mahajra 771103/5
Al-Badr, J. Amman 771103/5
Army, Marja 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
ZARQA:
ZARQA Govt. Hospital (09)983323
ZARQA National Hospital (09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)987732

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

04:45 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
05:00 Damascus (RJ)
05:10 Jeddah (RJ)
05:15 Agaba (RJ)
05:30 Cairo (RJ)
05:35 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
05:40 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
05:45 Abu Dhabi, Kuwait (RJ)
05:50 Moscow, New York (RJ)
05:55 Baghdad (RJ)
06:00 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

19:40 Tripoli (RJ)
19:55 Belgrade, Bucharest (RJ)
20:05 Cairo (RJ)
20:10 Kuwait (RJ)
20:15 Moscow, Larnaca (RJ)
20:20 Rome (RJ)
20:25 Beirut (RJ)
20:30 Zurich, Larnaca (RJ)
20:35 London (RJ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:00 Agaba (RJ)
07:10 Tripoli (RJ)
07:15 Vienna, Cologne (RJ)
07:20 Belgrade, Bucharest (RJ)
07:25 Rome, Madrid (RJ)
07:30 Paris, Brussels (RJ)
07:35 Frankfurt, London (RJ)
07:40 Baghdad (RJ)
07:45 Kuwait, Doha (RJ)
07:50 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
07:55 Larnaca (RJ)
08:00 Jeddah (RJ)
08:05 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

19:25 Cairo (RJ)

MARKET PRICES

Uppermarket prices in Jds per kg.

Apple 420 / 380
Banana 400 / 430
Banana (Mukammal) 530 / 450
Cabbage 30 / 25
Carrot 220 / 180
Cauliflower 140 / 100
Cauliflowers (large) 250 / 200
Cauliflowers (small) 180 / 140
Dates 550 / 500
Eggplant 150 / 100
Garlic 800 / 700
Grapes 180 / 140
Lemon 210 / 180
Marrow (large) 150 / 120
Marrow (small) 220 / 180

Petra, Radio, TV to get independent status

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Information Ibrahim Izziddin Monday opened a three-day round-table conference for the Arab news agencies federation and the news media of the Federal Republic of Germany and announced that the government was in the process of promoting the Jordan News Agency, Petra, and the radio and television corporation in a bid to bolster their media roles.

"We are seeking to restructure the national news agency with the purpose of granting it further flexibility in covering events occurring in various parts of the Kingdom and to enable it to cope with pan-Arab and international developments," Izziddin said in his opening address to the meeting.

Petra will be granted administrative and financial independence and will receive all possible financial support from the government to enable it to carry out

its mission, the minister said. The Jordan Radio and Television Corporation, Izziddin said, will also be given a degree of independence, enabling it to offer a better performance and contribute towards the development of the country.

The government has now granted the press total freedom of expression and writing and all intellectuals and writers have the right to voice the Jordanian people's aspirations and reflect their demands and their views, Izziddin said.

He said the new policy was adopted within the new era of democracy and parliamentary rule in Jordan.

The minister voiced hope that the round-table conference would contribute towards deepening the North and South dialogue and increase the West German media coverage of developments in the Arab World.

78 centres in Amman to sell imported meat

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Supply announced Monday that it had assigned 78 centres within the Amman region to sell imported frozen meat and that its warehouses had sufficient quantities for the public's needs.

A ministry official said the number of these centres had been increased because the ministry found that Jordanians were buying frozen meat more than at any time in the past and in view of the shortage of meat supplies from Eastern Europe.

Teams from the Ministry of Supply have toured the centres and ensured that they were abiding by the ministry's regulations and conditions and selling it at prices set by the ministry, the official said. He also announced that a consignment of 1,250 tonnes of frozen meat would soon arrive at Aqaba to meet the

shortages in the local market. Earlier this month, Ministry of Supply officials were quoted in the local press as saying that no more meat was being imported from Romania which recently witnessed a revolution but consignments of imported fresh meat will be arriving here from Turkey and Bulgaria by the middle of March. At the same time, the ministry was now distributing some 40 tonnes of imported fresh meat to various distribution centres and allowed centres that were originally assigned to sell only imported meat to also sell local meat so as to meet the shortage.

Jordan has almost three million heads of sheep but it is not sufficient to cover the country's needs, according to Razi Ibrahim, the ministry's secretary general.

JVA prepares final Al Wahdeh designs

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Valley Authority (JVA), which is in charge of building the Al Wahdeh Dam on the Yarmouk River near the common border with Syria, has begun preparing the final designs and tender documents for the construction of the dam, a project expected to take four years to complete, according to a report in the local press Monday.

The report quoted JVA Secretary-General Mohammad Bani Hani as saying that Amman would play host to a meeting in the next few months to discuss the question of financing the \$350 million project.

Bani Hani said that a 920-metre-long diversion tunnel at the dam site had been completed

by a consortium of Jordanian, Syrian and Italian companies at the cost of JD 2.5 million. Bani Hani visited Damascus last October to discuss questions pertaining to the dam project and cooperation between Syria and Jordan in carrying out joint agricultural projects.

Bani Hani said that the tunnel was needed to divert water from the Yarmouk River until the dam project was completed.

According to Bani Hani, the Jordanian government was maintaining contacts with financial institutions for ensuring loans to help construct the dam which would provide sufficient water for Jordan's agricultural and domestic use and electricity benefiting Jordan and Syria.

Tunis meeting reviews problems of refugees

TUNIS (Agencies) — Jordan and other Arab countries in the region hosting Palestinian refugees Monday opened a six-day meeting here to discuss developments in the Palestine problem, services to the refugees and Israel's practices in the occupied territories.

A spokesman for the meeting said that Israel's continued threats to the Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, the general conditions of the Arab people in the light of the uprising and Jewish immigration were on top of the agenda.

He said that services offered to the Palestinian refugees in the Arab World by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), Israel's plans to link the Mediterranean Sea with the Dead Sea and its economic and security dangers on the Arab World as well as issues pertaining to education for the Palestinian

children will also be discussed. Among the speakers at the opening session was Dr. Ahmad Qasabani, director of the Department of Palestinian Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who called on the conference to give proper attention to the plight of the Palestinian people under Israeli rule.

The 10-day meeting in Tunis brings together the civil servants responsible for Palestinians living in exile in Arab countries. Apart from Jewish immigration, it will discuss contributions to the budget of UNRWA, the U.N. agency which looks after Palestinian refugees.

Washington has cut its contribution from \$67 million in 1988 to \$61 million in 1989 and \$50 million this year, doing the need to resettle refugees elsewhere.

Arab Fund to finance study on grid link

KUWAIT (J.T.) — Plans by Jordan and four other Middle Eastern countries to link their national power grids has received a boost from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD), which has agreed to help finance a study on the project.

A statement by the Kuwait-based fund said that in cooperation with the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank, the fund will finance the study aiming to connect the grids of Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Syria and Turkey.

The statement, however, did not give a timeframe nor say how much the loan to be offered for the project was worth.

Over the past two years Jordan and the four Middle Eastern

states have been conducting meetings, and Amman has been chosen to host the headquarters of a technical committee preparing for the project.

Both Jordan and Egypt are already involved in a grid linkage project and the Arab fund has approved of loans to the two countries. The project entails laying an 11-kilometre submarine cable line between Sinai and Aqaba and establishing transformer stations and other installations along the route.

The two sides are currently preparing the final documents for the project on which work could start in the coming year. Jordan's grid was connected with that of Syria in 1981 with a 230-kilovolt line.

Greening Jordan campaign by year 2000 is launched

AMMAN (J.T.) — Tree-planting ceremonies were held in different parts of Jordan Monday to mark Arbor Day and the Ministry of Agriculture announced that millions of forest and fruit trees could be planted this year under the slogan of "greening the Kingdom by the year 2000."

The main celebration was held under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein at Jirah south of Amman and near the Queen Alia International Airport on the highway leading to Aqaba. The King planted a tree at the site, which was prepared for the occasion by the Ministry of Agriculture. He urged all Jordanians to exert more efforts to green Jordan.

"Indeed it should be the responsibility of all Jordanian citizens to plant trees in contribution towards the attainment of the goal of greening Jordan and to help develop the land which is precious for all of us," the King said in a statement to reporters at the ceremony in which senior government officials, guests and members of the public took part.

"Attention should not be centred only on the planting of a single tree on Arbor Day and tree-planting programmes should be maintained at various regions," the King said. "It is not

difficult to fulfil the goal of making Jordan green by the year 2000 and one has to struggle against all climatic conditions to achieve that goal."

The King, Prime Minister Mudar Badran, speakers of the Lower and Upper Houses of Parliament, deputies, Cabinet members, civil and military officials and members of the Arab and foreign diplomatic missions and members of the public planted trees along the edges of the desert highway in accordance with a plan drawn up by the Ministry of Agriculture, which aims to green the 300-kilometre route to Aqaba.

The ministry plans to carry out the first phase of the project this year along the desert highway by planting trees along a distance of 30 kilometres. A 50-kilometre stretch of the highway has already been planted by Maan, Tafleh and Karak governorates and the trees are being planted in five parallel rows along each side of the route, according to ministry officials.

The highway was selected as the focus for this year's celebrations because it forms a link between Jordan and the Arab countries in the south, the east and north, and because it connects the capital with the port city, the only outlet for Jordan.



His Majesty King Hussein Monday participates in Arbor Day ceremonies. (Petra)

ley and the Dead Sea as well as the Mujib River near Karak regions which are all being planted with tree saplings of different types.

So far, he said, areas at Himma, Um Qeis, Wadi Al Arab, Wadi Al Yabes, Rajeb, Arida, Wadi Shneib, Adasieh, Ma'in and Mujib have been covered with thousands of trees in the course of this programme. The ministry last year planted trees on 200,000 dunums of land, and this is being increased this year by 35,000 dunums, he said.

He estimated the areas grown with fruit trees at 40,000 dunums annually.

Referring to the this year's focus on the desert highway, he said that this project was aimed at

stemming the encroachment of desert over arable land, conserving soil and greening Jordan.

In 1951 only 5,000 dunums of land were covered with trees, rising to 50,000 dunums by the end of 1989, Abu Arrabi pointed out.

To protect the trees, the ministry has employed 250 guards whose task is to monitor the situation around the planted areas to prevent any damage to

The Ministry of Education said that at least 200,000 male and female students were to be involved in tree planting operations as a contribution to the national effort of greening Jordan.

The Jordanian Armed Forces Monday held a separate tree planting celebration marking Arbor Day. Army Chief of Staff Fathi Abu Taleb and senior army officers planted fruit and forest trees at a site in Amman.

Amad appointed director-general

AMMAN (J.T.) — The board of directors of the Jordan Press Foundation Company Limited (JPFC), the publishers of Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times, Monday appointed Mohammad Al Amad as director-general of the foundation.

Economic crunch should not deter businesswomen

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian businesswomen should not be reluctant to take courageous steps to enter the industrial arena even in times of economic hardship when all businesses and entrepreneurs face difficulties, an expert told a group of Jordanian businesswomen Sunday evening.

According to Hina Shah, from the International Centre for Entrepreneurship for Career Development in India, women in the developing world and possibly everywhere have to work harder to establish and maintain businesses and industries.

Addressing members of the Amman Business and Professional Women's Club (ABPWC), Shah said that "on

the whole women entrepreneurs are not different from men. While there are some added social obstacles the rules of the game are the same."

Shah, who has been a guest of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) to do a survey after studying the situation of small businesses run by Jordanian women for the past month, said that she was impressed by what she saw in Jordan.

"Jordan is at the beginning of the road, of course, and should therefore not compare itself to the countries that started years ago. Considering the circumstances, (Jordanian) women entrepreneurs have made a good start," Shah said.

She told the audience about small businesses run by women in India. Twelve years ago, when "entrepreneurship

among women was born in India, women there, like here, needed help to learn developmental means and be trained in industries which were in demand rather than those which may have seemed more traditional and comfortable to work in. Women in India, like women in Jordan, were afraid to venture into the unknown. But that fear is slowly being overcome by Indian women and with the right guidance women here will overcome it also," Shah said.

The Indian expert's comments came in direct correlation to a project started by the ABPWC called "Small Business Consulting Project." Coordinator of the project Nisrin Toukan told the audience that her initial aim was to "listen to the needs of women

entrepreneurs in Jordan." "We want to cater to your needs and know what your problems are, be they managerial, financial or technical," she told the audience.

Shah said she was visiting Jordan to see "what is happening" in the Kingdom and give advice. I have been responsible for the training and counselling of over 2,000 women entrepreneurs in India over the last 12 years. Some women preferred to market traditional handmade creations, which are largely embroidered. These products are beautiful and they do sell well as long as the market is not flooded with them. Once many Indian women realised that the Indian markets were overflowing with 'hand made this or that', they became courageous and began

all sorts of things, including laundry mats and pencil factories."

Shah said that certain factors were essential if any enterprise were to be successful. "First there is the realisation of opportunities, consolidation of resources, the creation of the venture and last but not least its growth and survival. The initiative, information seeking, risk taking, persistence, systematic planning and self-confidence are steps that the entrepreneur has to take before and throughout her venture," Shah said.

She told the audience that officials at Jordanian financial institutions that she visited told her that potential female entrepreneurs "hardly ever brought the right feasibility studies when seeking financial assistance." Subsequently

businesswomen short of cash to fund projects were rarely given loans from the financial institutions.

Women "must learn to stop fearing the unknown and start learning what they don't know to overcome that fear," Shah said. "If a financial institution needs a guarantor then bring one. Don't think you won't need the moral support of your families because you will and you might as well accept it and don't fight to be 'independent' of anyone or anything," Shah told the women.

She pointed out that a recent survey in India had shown that out of a sample of 3,000 entrepreneurs (men and women were divided equally) 72 per cent of the women and 62 per cent of the men had been "successful."

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

NO TRAVEL ALLOWANCES: Prime Minister Mudar Badran Monday ordered stopping monthly travel allowances that the prime minister, ministers, and other people included in travel law number 56 of 1981 have been receiving. The order, going into effect Jan. 1, 1990, provides for stopping travel allowances to those who use government vehicles. The order also includes secretary generals, director generals, and all others who use government vehicles (Petra).

ENVOYS PRESENT CREDENTIALS: The newly appointed ambassadors to Jordan from Palestine and China Al Tayyeb Abdul Rahim Mahmoud and Chiang Liang, Monday presented copies of their credentials to Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasbi. The new Chinese ambassador here succeeds Zhang Zhen who had served here since February 1985 (Petra).

LEGAL ISSUES: The Lower House of Parliament Legal Committee held a meeting Monday and approved amended laws related to the Institute of Public Administration and agricultural marketing. The committee disapproved an amended law on professional licences. Committee head Deputy Hussein Mujali said that the decisions reached would be presented to the Lower House for discussion and adoption of a final stand. The committee will hold its next meeting Monday (Petra).

RESEARCHER WINS AWARD: Royal Scientific Society (RSS) researcher Muna Hindiyeh has won the second prize of Prince Abdullah Al Mubarak Al Sabbah Competition for Scientific Achievements Among Arab Youth/1989 in the field of environmental pollution. Hindiyeh presented a thesis entitled "Impact of Khirbat Al Samra waste stabilisation ponds on organic matter and bacter degradation in King Talal Reservoir."

AGRICULTURAL GUIDANCE: An agricultural guidance office in 'Ay district, Karak Governorate, was opened Monday. The office will provide agricultural services, conduct field tours, and hold seminars to introduce farmers to modern agricultural techniques and means to combat pests (Petra).

NO TRANSPORT HIKES: Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications Secretary General Mohammad Smadi has stressed that the ministry has no intention to reconsider transport fares on any of the internal and the external lines. The ministry reviews and amends transport fares for time to time in a way that suits citizens and owners of transport vehicles, Smadi added (Petra).

JPRC SALES: Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company (JPRC) has reported that the company's sales of petroleum derivatives in 1989 stood at 2,867,702 metric tonnes compared to 2,875,435 metric tonnes last year, reflecting a drop of 7,733 metric tonnes. The JPRC's sales of liquid gas and benzene rose by one per cent (Petra).

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITION

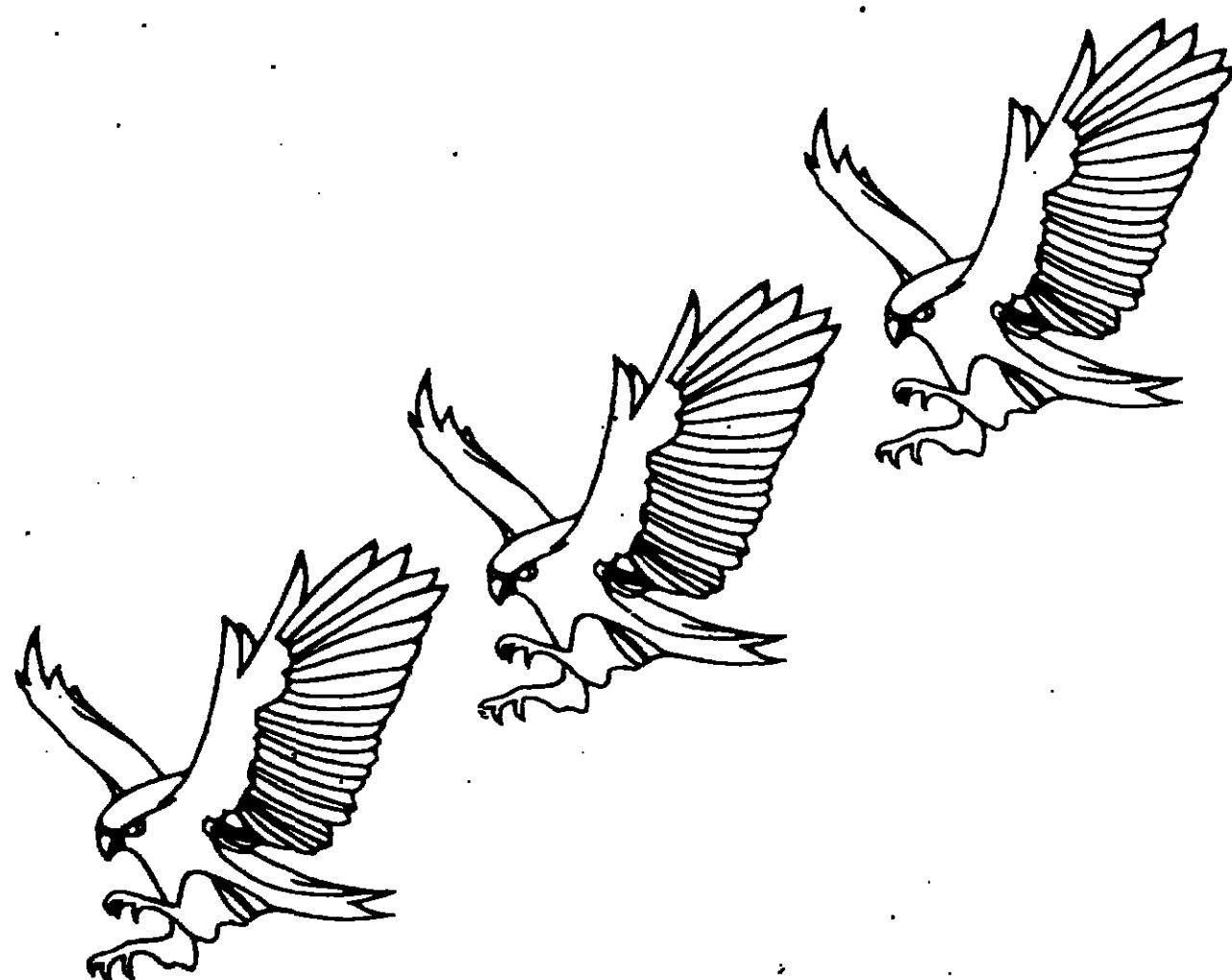
★ An exhibition entitled "They chose 30 poets" at the French Cultural Centre.

FILMS

★ A documentary on "Russian art" at the Soviet Cultural Centre — 5:30 p.m.

★ A scientific documentary on "sleep and its disorders" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.

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Jordan Times

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Shamir's challenge to the Arab World

ISRAEL'S Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir was at least honest about it when he declared out in the open Sunday that Israel will have to hold on to the occupied territories to accommodate the mass immigration of Soviet Jews. The question that remains is: will the Arab World be equally honest in explaining what they intend to do about it? The Arab parties most concerned about the Palestinian case, especially the PLO, are duty-bound to inform the Palestinian people under occupation what operational ideas or plans they have in mind to combat this large Israeli design on the Arab territories. If Arab governments are going to be satisfied with expression of concern and anxiety about the imminent Israeli plan to populate the occupied Arab territories with new waves of Jewish emigrants from far away country, and plan only to hold conferences about it then the Palestinian people waging their intifada for over two years must know this and know it fast.

Shamir was most candid before his audience in Tel Aviv Sunday when he equated the projected mass Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union to a miracle like "all miracles that have always rescued the Jewish people." Unfortunately the Arabs are short on miracles these days and unless they can have the kind of political will and serious determination to frustrate this latest Israeli conspiracy against the West Bank and Gaza Strip, then as Shamir has promised his people, in five years the whole issue of negotiating the future of these territories would be finished and done with. Meanwhile, the Palestinian people will continue waging their heroic struggle for liberty and self-determination against a background of fait accompli by Israel before the very eyes of the Arab governments and peoples.

In this context it is tragic to note that Moscow and Washington are in league about this very ominous issue. With the USSR opening its gates for Soviet Jews to leave the country and the U.S. funding nearly the entire project of mass Jewish immigration to Israel, the Arab World has to reckon with this dangerous dimension as well. What better or stronger signals do the Arab countries need from the world to come to the conclusion that the relaxation in the East-West relations will not bring them much comfort as much as one would want to welcome the positive developments between the two camps? Clearly the Arab World will be left out in the cold against the backdrop of drastic improvements in relations between the East and the West. Instead of expressing concern and anxiety about the course of history, the Arab governments and peoples need to indulge in deep soul-searching about their fate and destiny in the coming decades.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i on Monday commented on a meeting between the prime minister and the Jordan Press Association board during which Mr. Badran emphasised the government's keenness on maintaining very constructive atmosphere for the local press to shoulder national responsibilities and contribute to the construction of the country. The paper said that the prime minister proved that he realises deeply the role of the media especially in the current democratic atmosphere introduced in Jordan. All that the prime minister requested from the press is to tell the truth about various situations in a responsible manner that would serve national interests, the paper added. It said that the prime minister stressed that his government will not interfere in the media and that no pressure will be exercised on any newspaper. In the light of the meeting the Jordanian journalists feel that their work and journalism in general is now entering a new era of openness, and one characterised with responsibility, requiring responsible reporting and objective analysis of all issues in a very constructive manner serving the national interests, the paper concluded.

Writing in Al Ra'i, columnist Salah Abdul Samad Monday tackled the question of medicine in Jordan and criticises the concerned authorities for failing to make available sufficient supplies of medicine at reasonable prices. There is a shortage of all types of medicine at the health centres around the country; and many patients began to believe that the shortage stems from a government austerity policy to reduce general spending, the writer notes. He says that the Ministry of Health, which is primarily responsible for the medicine situation in Jordan, should make its views open to the general public, and most importantly replenish its health centres with new supplies which mostly benefit the low and limited income groups in society. Medicine, he continues, is an essential commodity which should not be included in any austerity programme; and sufficient supplies should be made available especially for those sectors that cannot purchase their needs from the private pharmacies.

Al Dastan daily said Monday that the current tension between the United States and Israel is not only due to the Israeli government's intransigent position with regard to the Middle East question and the peace prospects, but to the negative results of Washington's continued drive to appease Tel Aviv and Yitzhak Shamir. The paper said that the United States is now finding itself confronting a stubborn Israeli government because the United States has been condoning Tel Aviv's obstinacy all along, and has failed to put an end to Zionist extremism. Washington's attitude over the past years and its failure to check Israel's crimes and violations of all international principles and laws have encouraged the extremists among the Zionists to pursue their criminal actions, said the paper. The Israelis are now so arrogant as to declare their disregard to Washington's views and the Baker plan and their determination to go ahead with unilateral arrangements for holding elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, noted the paper. It said that despite the current Israeli-U.S. tension, we cannot believe that Washington will undertake a serious action that would deter Israel from further atrocities.

Former E. European leaders threatened with imprisonment

By Roland Priitz
The Associated Press

VIENNA, Austria — Bulgaria's former Communist ruler could soon be facing criminal charges. His East German counterpart, elderly and ill, seems likely to avoid jail. The former Czech party chief is in limbo, with charges against him still possible.

Only Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu met a violent end. He was executed on Christmas day, in part for ordering his security troops to open fire on civilians who overthrew his government.

At least half a dozen members of the Ceausescu clan, including son Nicu and daughter Zola-Elena, are known to be under arrest and awaiting trial, but they won't face death because capital punishment has been abolished by the interim government.

Such is the fate of East European leaders, who once held supreme power in their countries and then were swept away by revolutions in a 10-week period from October through December.

Ceausescu, dread and despised by his people, and his hated wife Elena were the only rulers who paid the ultimate price. The other hard-liners in the East Bloc died politically.

Erich Honecker, the longtime Communist leader of East Germany, was the first to go, ousted by his own politburo on Oct. 18 as massive street demonstrations swept the country and thousands emigrated to the West.

Zhivkov was dumped by his party comrades Nov. 10 for resisting the reforms being cham-

pioned by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. The same fate befell Czechoslovak Communist Party chief Milos Jakes on Nov. 24.

Then, in late December, the Ceausescus were cast out in a violent climax to the swift changes.

Stalinist systems which had held 111 million people in an iron grip in the Kremlin's satellite countries for over 40 years collapsed like a house of cards.

Among the deposed rulers, Zhivkov appears the most likely candidate for criminal prosecution, Bulgarian officials say.

He has been accused of running the economy and leading Bulgaria into international isolation, largely because of his brutal suppression of the country's 1.5 million ethnic Turks.

"We think (the charges) will be abuse of power, fraud, ... crimes against the constitution ... depriving the whole people of their rights," said Petar Beron, a member of a parliamentary investigatory commission.

The panel is also looking into the Zhivkov's alleged diversion of Bulgarian government funds into hard-currency Swiss bank accounts and his misuse of state funds to build over 30 villas around the country.

Zhivkov is being "protected from the wrath of the people" at his Boyana residence near Sofia, Beron said. His trial date will be set after the investigation is completed, probably in late January.

East Germany's Honecker is ailing, and prosecutors have not said whether there is sufficient evidence to bring him to trial for

any crime. Last week, he underwent what was said to be successful surgery to remove a malignant kidney tumour.

Honecker had been placed under house arrest after charges of massive corruption in the former government were raised.

But informed sources said a security cordon imposed around Honecker's opulent residential compound near East Berlin was removed several weeks ago because "no legal grounds were established" on which to detain him.

At least 30 former top officials are under investigation in East Germany and most of them are under arrest. They include ousted trade union boss Harry Tisch and Guenther Mittag, who oversaw the centrally planned economy.

Only one top Communist functionary is known to be under arrest in Czechoslovakia. Miroslav Stepan, the former Prague city party boss, was charged with abuse of power, allegedly for ordering a bloody crackdown on demonstrating students Nov. 17 that triggered a peaceful revolution and ousted the Communists from power.

The fate of party leader Jakes is still unclear. A parliamentary commission investigated the Nov. 17 police crackdown, but apparently did not direct Jakes' personal involvement.

However, a separate Communist Party commission investigating the abuse of political power ordered Jakes, Stepan and Vasil Bilak, the hard-line ideologist, to turn in their party memberships.

Gustav Husak, who came to power after the "Prague spring" reform movement was crushed by the Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968, resigned as head of state on Dec. 10.

Husak and some 30 other senior officials had their party membership suspended by an extraordinary party congress earlier this month, pending results of the party investigation.

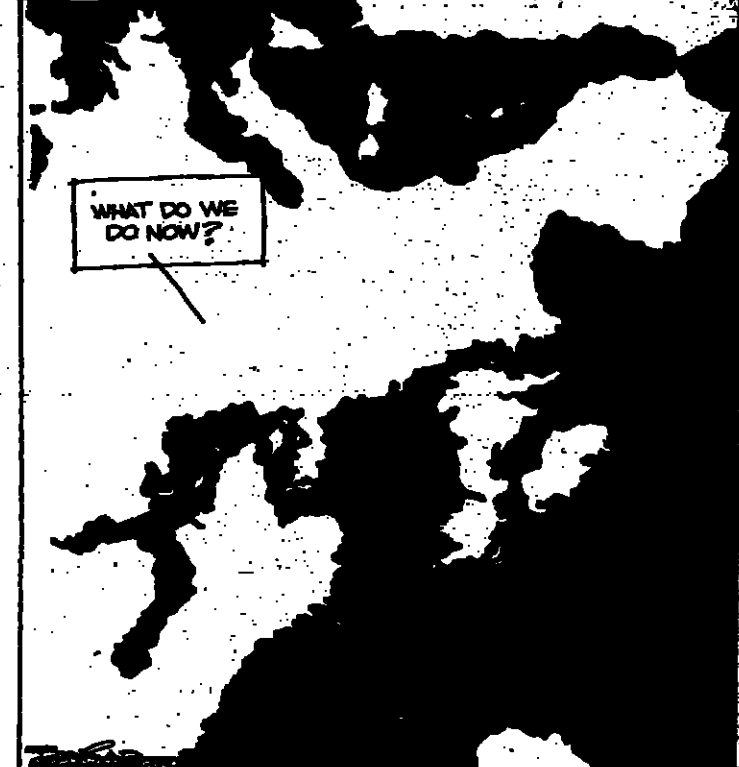
In Hungary, where reforms came earlier, Janos Kadar was removed as party leader in May 1988. He died last July.

Kadar's reformist successor, Karoly Grosz, was overtaken by the pace of change and relieved last year by a new group of reformers. Last October, they dissolved the Communist Party and established a new Western-oriented Socialist Party.

In November, Hungarians voted overwhelmingly in a referendum for the party to make all its assets public.

The East Bloc leader who seems to have best survived the revolutionary turbulence engulfing Eastern Europe is Poland's Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski, the armed forces chief who ruled Poland since 1981, and he has worked closely since then with the Solidarity-led government.

It was Jaruzelski who decreed martial law in December 1981 to crush the independent labour union. And it was Jaruzelski who accepted the power-sharing arrangement last summer when it became obvious that Poland could not be governed without Solidarity's participation.



Free elections in Eastern Europe

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — The tide of popular will that has forced the scheduling of free elections in most East bloc nations appears to be sweeping the Soviet Union along.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, under pressure to expand political reform, suggested Saturday that he would not resist moves to allow multiple parties in the Soviet Union.

In Poland, Hungary, Romania, Czechoslovakia and East Germany, the Communists already have given up their leading role in society, under pressure from pro-democracy movements that triggered revolutionary upheavals late last year.

In Bulgaria, the Communist party is to waive its leading role in the near future. As in the other countries, eliminating the party's official dominance requires a change in the constitution.

Even non-aligned Yugoslavia's Communist party has promised free elections, but it is still unclear how soon they will take place.

Hungary will be the first East bloc country to stage multiparty elections this year. Its parliament, shedding the role of a rubber-stamp body, has provided the legal basis for the registration and operation of political parties and made other provisions for multiparty democracy.

The Hungarian elections in March will see a variety of conservative, social democratic and peasant parties vying for votes.

The Hungarian Communist party, which last year converted itself into the Hungarian Socialist party, could end up in a ruling coalition or in opposition.

In Romania, where the revolution only three weeks old, it is hard to say what parties will take part in the first elections after the ouster of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu. The election date is also unclear.

The ruling National Salvation Front Council said it would arrange for elections in May, but the National Peasant party and other emerging political groups insist they need more time to prepare for the vote.

Therefore, the interim leadership is likely to postpone the election date at least until summer.

Under pressure from an angry crowd in Bucharest, interim Romanian President Ion Iliescu on Friday declared the Communist party outlawed. On Saturday, however, he reversed himself, saying it had been a rash decision and the issue would be resolved in a referendum on Jan. 28.

In Czechoslovakia, half a dozen parties, including the Communist party, may take part in the country's first free elections since

1948. Balloting is scheduled for June.

Even though they don't face a ban like in Romania, the Czechoslovak Communists stand little chance to regain prominence and influence.

The Communist party has been discredited by the failure of its leaders, installed after the 1968 Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia, to denounce the invasion, respect human rights and open a dialogue with opposition intellectuals.

Just two months after the peaceful revolution started in mid-November, Communists already are a minority in the 21-member government and will shortly be a minority in parliament.

In Bulgaria, new Communist party chief Petar Mladenov has also promised multi-party elections.

Several political groups, led by the ecoglasnost movement, have been set up, but it is still unclear who the main contenders in the elections, tentatively scheduled for May, will be.

Bulgaria has not had revolutions like East Germany, Czechoslovakia or Romania, and the Communist party is still powerful.

However, after the Nov. 10, 1989, ouster of long-time party and state leader Todor Zhivkov, who may be tried for corruption and other crimes, nine bourgeois political groups have banded together and formed the Union of Democratic Forces.

UDF representatives this week were negotiating with the ruling Communists on ethnic issues, and will soon sit down for talks on power-sharing, elections schedules, introduction of effective multi-party democracy and other key issues.

In the virtual absence of any democratic traditions, Bulgaria may be the Kremlin ally that moves slowest towards establishment of a full-fledged democratic system.

In Poland, the Communists' 42-year grip began crumbling after its defeat in parliamentary elections last June.

Two longtime allied parties — the Peasant Party and Democratic Party — began asserting their independence and prevented the Communists from forming a new government.

Peasants and Democrats joined a Solidarity-led coalition, enabling creation in August of the first non-Communist-led government in the East bloc. On Dec. 29, parliament voted to give citizens the right to create independent political parties and eliminated a clause ensuring a leading role for the Communist party.

Americans speculate identity of Mr. Z

By Alan Cooperman
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Even before the article was published, the U.S. foreign policy establishment and the academic world were abuzz. When it finally came out Friday, copies of Daedalus — a high-brow journal with a slender circulation — were suddenly a hot ticket.

The article was about U.S.-Soviet relations, and it was signed simply "Z" — a pseudonym that cried out for attention. It was an obvious allusion to a 1947 article, signed "X," that laid the theoretical framework for U.S. cold war policy of containment.

X's article, published in the journal Foreign Affairs, was eventually acknowledged to be the work of George F. Kennan, a State Department official who later became ambassador to the Soviet Union and one of the nation's leading diplomats.

Speculation about the identity of Z began last Thursday, when excerpts from the Daedalus article appeared on the opinion page of the New York Times.

Washington was soon alive with rumors that the author was a well-placed government official — perhaps even a well-placed Soviet government official.

Daedalus, a literary and philosophical quarterly published by the 210-year-old American Academy of Arts and Sciences in Cambridge, Massachusetts, printed 23,000 copies of Friday's edition — 3,000 more than usual — and expects to issue many reprints, said its editor, Stephen Graubard.

Graubard, however, was hardly ecstatic about his publishing coup. Instead, the 65-year-old editor was ruminating about the "frivolity" of the American press — and fuming about allegations

that the pseudonym was a masterful bit of hype.

"The author's identity has become the subject of a guessing game and considerable gossip," Graubard said. "It seems to be consuming more time and energy than the article itself."

Graubard refused to name the author or explain why a pseudonym was used, except to say that there were "compelling reasons" to protect the writer's identity.

"I want people to read it and say whether they agree or disagree," he said. "This is a very serious subject, and so far I have yet to see an analysis of what was said — as opposed to a guessing game about who said it."

As to the allegation by columnist Patrick Buchanan that the Z byline was "just clever hype," Graubard was indignant.

"All you have to do is read Daedalus to know we don't go in for hype," he said. "I would use a pseudonym whenever I thought there were compelling reasons to do so. But I do not use it as a gimmick."

The article takes a gloomy view of Mikhail Gorbachev's chances of making the Soviet system economically efficient and politically democratic while maintaining the primacy of the Communist party.

"The fundamental structures of the Leninist system reached an inextricable impasse at the end of the 1970s, and the mounting contradictions of perestroika indicate that the system cannot be restructured or reformed, but can only stagnate or be dismantled and replaced by market institutions over a long period of time," Z wrote.

While arguing that it is therefore futile for the United States to try to help Gorbachev succeed in his avowed aims, Z contends that the West can play a constructive role, primarily by investing in the

Soviet Union's emerging private sector.

"... Western investment, in joint or other enterprises in Russia, would have to be handled without triumphalism about capitalism's superiority, and with due sensitivity to Soviet national pride," the article says. "The West's aim should be to encourage the change of Soviet realities while leaving the old labels intact."

The Arkansas Democrat newspaper reported Saturday that it had determined Z was retired Lt. Gen. William Odom, the former director of the National Security Agency. The newspaper quoted William E. Jackson Jr., an international relations professor at the University of Arkansas as saying Odom, a close friend, was Z.

Odom, reached Friday in Middlebury, Vermont, gave a cryptic response. He denied that he was Z, but said the newspaper's reporter would be correct in quoting Jackson.

"You can write what he says," said Odom, who in September was quoted as warning that it was unlikely a liberal democracy would be established in the Soviet Union, and that reforms there could lead to chaos.

Much of the speculation about Z's identity has focused on Robert M. Gates, President George Bush's deputy national security adviser. Gates had planned to give a speech last year expressing pessimism about Gorbachev's chances of success, but was blocked by Secretary of State James A. Baker, who reportedly felt such sentiments were inappropriate around the time of the Malta summit.

While Gates might therefore want to publish his views under a pseudonym, and the article would seem to be in line with his general opinions, he denied through the White House press office on Fri-

day that he is Z.

Another frequently mentioned possible author is Zbigniew Brzezinski, former national security adviser under President Jimmy Carter. Brzezinski declined to discuss the article and indicated little interest in it, but did not expressly deny being the author.

"He says it seems to have disappeared like a lead balloon," his secretary, Trudy Wenner, said Wednesday. "He says there was a flurry of speculation about its authorship, and then everyone stopped talking about it."

Other names that have been bandied about are Paul D. Wolfowitz, the under secretary of defence for policy, and Condoleezza Rice, a Soviet specialist on the National Security Council staff. Rice did not return phone calls Friday, and Wolfowitz was out of the country and unavailable for comment, said Defence Department spokesman Rick Oborn.

After the original X article appeared in July 1947, Kennan was identified within a matter of days as the author. Now a historian at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Princeton, New Jersey, he also declined to discuss the Z article.

Graubard said he believes Z's article is "infinitely more provocative" than the X article was in its day. Some scholars, however, are less enthralled.

"The sense of it is that we should help the Russians right now, but whether Gorbachev succeeds or fails is going to be decided inside the Soviet Union — we cannot really influence whether the Soviets are going to be liberal or not," said Adam Ulam, director of the Russian Research Centre at Harvard University.

"It's a sensible but not terribly original point of view," Ulam added.

By Michael Battyte
Reuters

AMRITSAR, India — The new Indian government's Punjab peace initiative has kindled renewed hopes of an end to the long, debilitating Sikh separatist war in the rich northern state.

And there are the first faint, flickering signs that militant leaders, whose war stretching back nearly a decade has cost thousands of lives, may be prepared to respond.

A senior intelligence official said three top militant leaders had visited Punjab from their Pakistan bases in the past three weeks to check out the new situation.

One of them had three meetings with Sarnajit Singh Mann, currently the most powerful voice in Sikh politics, he said.

He said Gurbachan Singh Manochahal, one of the founders of the now-split committee that started the insurgency, opened discussions on conditions for supporting Mann's efforts to start peace talks with the government.

"This is not a definitive indication of a willingness to do a deal, but the fact that Manochahal is talking in this way is positive,"

New Punjab peace initiative raises hopes

the official said.

Mann, elected to parliament in November from a jail cell while awaiting trial on charges of plotting the 1984 assassination of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, has said he should mediate talks.

Senior officials in Delhi seem ready to let Mann — freed by Indira's son Rajiv after his election defeat — see what he can do.

"We have to head for the negotiating table and right now he has the most support," said a cabinet member who asked not to be identified.

"I don't know the shape of things to come, but no one can deny that he is the most powerful man in Punjab today."

Splits and enmities between the various militant factions as well as

similar rifts and strains between Sikh politicians mean the road to peace is likely to be a long one.

Huge questions remain on whether the militants are willing to settle for less than the independent Khalistan (land of the pure) for which they have been fighting.

But two visits to Punjab by new Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh during his first six weeks in office have made talk of peace widespread.

"People are very hopeful. Everyone wants something to happen. People want peace," said former Punjab Chief Minister Surjit Singh Barnala.

Singh has given the feeling to the people that he intends to resolve the problem."

sentiment and Singh's huge surge of popularity in the farming state could force concessions from militant leaders.

"If this effort is kept up, it would isolate the militants," he said.

Singh started his peace initiative within days of taking power, going to Amritsar's Golden Temple, the holiest Sikh shrine, to pray for peace and mingle with the people with little overt security around him.

He launched a debate on Punjab which he said should lead to consensus on how to resolve the insurgency while keeping the state within India.

Singh called an all-party meeting in Delhi on Punjab, then on Jan. 11 held a multi-party rally in the Punjab city of Ludhiana and added to the list of concessions he has made to political demands from the state.

The cabinet minister said the government had hopes for success.

"It's going to be a very long road, but the ground is being prepared by generating confidence among the people that we are sincere about finding a political solution. Once that is established, it should be all right," he said.

LETTERS

Driving you crazy

To the Editor,

Regarding the article about driving licences, (Dec. 25), I suggest that people might be more inclined to go and get one if the system in the administration section of the driving centre at 8th Circle was completely overhauled. At present it is just a chaotic mess with no chronological order at all.

Recently when I went there to renew my licence, I had to go to the reception desk a total of six times, I was told to have my residence permit photocopied, and when I returned from doing that I had to go back to the same door to have a form filled in.

I was then told to have my eyes tested — then back again to reception! This time I was told to pay JD 1,200 to the accountant. On returning yet again from doing that, I was told to go back to the accountant and pay him JD 3,450 — why not both sums at the

same time? It was the same last year — I wasted all morning.

I returned wearily to reception, and was told to return in three hours to pick up my licence! This sort of thing is not always convenient to everybody. Each time I moved from desk to desk, I had to wait in a disorderly queue with people pushing in from all directions, which became more and more aggravating and frustrating — and of course a complete waste of time for me and most other people as well. I asked one of the receptionists if he got tired of seeing people several times an hour. He said that he was always exhausted at the end of the day!

Could not this system be shaken up so that it wastes less time for everybody, and the whole procedure dealt with in an orderly fashion, causing less frayed tempers?

Chris Larner
Amman

1990, the year of the horse

By Lee Tong-kol

A HORSE has four principal gait: walk, trot, canter and gallop. In a walk, the slowest gait, one foot at a time is placed on the ground. In a trot the forefeet on one side and the hind feet on the other side touch the ground at almost the same moment, giving a two-beat rhythm.

In the canter there is also a two-beat rhythm, but it is the feet on the same side that touch the ground at the same time. The gallop is the natural top speed run of horses. It has a three-beat rhythm that is slightly broken because one in each stride all four feet are off the ground at the same time.

By the Oriental Zodiac, 1990 is the year of the horse.

Koreans may have taken the horse to their heart from time immemorial. Records say that during the Three Kingdoms period (57 B.C.-668) young Koreans rode and visited rivers and mountains in order that they might find the courage and strength and acquire the skills to stand against attacks from out-

side. These, like Hwarang in the Silla Kingdom in southeastern Korea, and their horses became the backbone of the first successful attempt to unify the Korean peninsula in 668. Ancient Koreans also made paintings of horses, some of which can be still seen in royal tombs.

"Chosunchoong," or the Heavenly Horse Tomb, in front of the city hall of the ancient Silla capital of Kyongju is open to the public as a natural museum with its inner part hollowed out for a showroom to display the delicate mural painting of a white horse together with a gold crown and many other items.

Welcome to the year of the horse, an animal whose courage, speed and faithfulness have been recorded in countless stories and poems. Its grace and beauty have been caught in sculpture and other forms of art. Various civilizations over the world have treasured good horses above nearly all other possessions.

Each year in the Oriental calendar is represented by one symbol from a sequence of 10 celestial stems and another from

a series of 12 terrestrial branches symbolised by animals: the rat, ox, tiger, hare, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, sock, dog and pig. The year 1990 has the fifth celestial stem and the seventh terrestrial branch, the horse, and is consequently called "Kyong-O" year in Korean.

A horoscope is harmless so long as it is not taken too seriously. However, when one becomes unduly obsessed with it, the houses of heaven may really pull the strings on earth.

It has long been said that those born in the year of the Rat will have no worry about earning a livelihood, that those of the year of the Cock must spend money to earn as a chicken must peck around to find feed, and that a girl having the zodiac sign of the tiger is bound to overpower her husband: thus was one's fate bound to the attributes of the animal of the year of one's birth.

People think that such animistic superstitions will fade away in these modern times, persisting only in folk tales. But many Koreans are still full of hope when they greet the coming year of the horse, believing in the

merits of the animal.

Throughout history, the horse has been the most valuable animal that man has domesticated. This has changed a great deal since the invention of the automobile, but the horse is still very valuable. The horse used to do everything that the automobile and the tractor and even the railroads do now.

It was very important in warfare, in special units of mounted soldiers called cavalry, but now these have been replaced by tanks and trucks. It was the horse that made possible most of the great conquests of ancient history, such as those of Alexander the Great and Genghis Khan, because without horses the armies could not have travelled so far or so fast.

In old Korea, Hwarang Kwan-chang of Silla (57 B.C.-935) rode out alone at the age of sixteen, making an assault all along the enemy line. The boy was captured by troops of the Paekche Kingdom (18 B.C.-660) in southwestern Korea and had his head cut off and sent to the Silla soldiers, according to historical records.

On seeing the dead Kwan-chang's head hanging on the saddle of his horse which found its way back, the Silla troops were so affected that they charged the enemy and changed the rout into victory, and could also conquer the Koguryo Kingdom in northern Korea later in 668 bringing peace and unity to the resulting nation of Korea.

Polo was a popular sport in Korea during the Koryo Dynasty (918 A.D.-1392) and early in the following Choson Dynasty (1392-1910). Korean kings were much interested in the sport. They adopted it as a subject for some civil servants employment examinations.

Horse racing has been a popular sport for almost as long as horses have been domesticated. It was originally intended to improve the breed. The fastest horses were raced and the winners were crossbred to try to obtain even faster runners.

A horse needs special care. It must be fed the right kind of food in the right quantity. It must be properly exercised. Its coat should be brushed or curried-combed every day. Horses have



By the Oriental Zodiac, 1990 is the Year of the Horse. They year 1990 has the fifth celestial stem and the seventh terrestrial branch, the horse, and is consequently called "Kyong-O" year in Korean.

very sensitive breathing organs. Care should be taken that a horse does not catch cold because a cold will usually turn into pneumonia and prove fatal.

Most horses live to be 25 years old. When a horse is born it is called a colt or a filly, depending on whether it is male or female. After it is five years old it is called a stallion or a mare. The full-grown mare may give birth, or

foal, until she is 20 years old. Usually only one foal is born at a time. When a mare has more than one foal at a time, they are usually all sickly and often do not live.

No one knows just when or where the first horses were domesticated. It probably happened at various places and at different times. Man has since bred and developed many different breeds

of horses, each suited for a particular purpose or use. Some breeds are huge and powerfully muscled. They are used for pulling loads and doing other heavy work.

Some breeds are sleek and streamlined. They are ideal for riding, racing or just for show. Ponies have been developed to pull carts and serve as children's mounts — Korea Newsreview.

Death and deceit: Adored husband plotted murder

By George Esper
The Associated Press

BOSTON — Police believed Chuck Stuart when he said a black gunman had commandeered his car, shot him in the stomach and fatally wounded his pregnant wife and their unborn child. The shocking story made headlines across the United States. Most Americans saw the Stuaarts as middle-class victims of urban crime on that bleak night in October.

People were horrified by the tale of a couple, kidnapped after leaving a childbirth class in Boston, taken at gunpoint in their own car, robbed and shot.

Stuart's story about a black assailant touched off a vast manhunt. Police fanned out through the Mission Hill neighbourhood, frisking black men. State politicians called for the reinstatement of the death penalty.

The story had only begun to fade from the headlines, two

weeks ago, when Stuart leaped off a bridge and drowned himself. Then police released the startling news that Stuart had become the prime suspect in killings of his wife and child.

A story that had, as the outset, seemed to justify white fears about black crime suddenly was exposed as a shocking hoax. Blacks were outraged that authorities had fallen for Stuart's lie.

"Stuart used the idea of a black man doing violence to a white woman because it was probably the most reasonable thing he could say to cover up his wrongdoings," said Paul Parks, a veteran activist and former state secretary of education.

The tragedy might have been treated as a routine urban crime story except for a dramatic, tape-recorded 10-minute exchange between the wounded Stuart and state police dispatcher Gary McLoughlin, who pleaded with

Stuart to hang on until patrol cars could find him.

"You can't blank out on me. I need you, man. Chuck? Chuck? Chuck... Chuck, can you hear me? Chuck... Chuck, pick up the phone. I can hear your breathing there. Chuck, come on, buddy."

Who could not believe the anguished story of Carol Stuart's husband, who sat next to his pregnant wife, his shoulder cushioning her head, his blood-splattered shirt torn wide to expose the bullet hole in his belly?

The drama, which tore at hearts around the world and brought torrents of sympathy cards from as far away as Italy, remained riveting for weeks.

Their baby, Christopher, died 17 days after his premature birth. Stuart, hospitalized six weeks, left his bed to kiss his dying son goodbye.

She was 30 when she died; he turned 30 two weeks before his suicide.

Now authorities are sorting rumors and evidence, both focusing on insurance money, looking for a motive in Carol Stuart's murder and any partners in the plot.

One of the most fascinating — and repellent — aspects of the Stuart case is that two younger brothers had early knowledge of the crime.

Last week, Matthew Stuart, 23, told his attorney he'd known for 2½ months about the plot to kill his sister-in-law. Richard Clayman, attorney for Michael Stuart, disclosed to reporters that Maathew told Michael, 27, about the plot Oct. 26, just three days after Carol's death.

In addition, Clayman said, Chuck and Michael had a "dis-jointed, vague conversation" some weeks before the murder, and Michael told Chuck: "I don't know exactly what you're talking about, but I'm not getting involved with anything, any sort of

crazy thing you're talking about." Matthew Stuart stood at Carol's wake and carried her casket.

"If they did know and they sat with us and cried, then it is the ultimate hypocrisy," said Carol Stuart's brother, Carl Dimaiti.

Details of the plot kept tumbling out last week. Stuart was the beneficiary of at least two insurance policies on his wife totalling \$182,000, and authorities were said to be checking reports of at least one other policy worth more than twice that amount. Published reports said Stuart needed the money to realise a dream of starting his own restaurant.

A nickel-plated .38-caliber revolver pulled Tuesday from a river appears to be the one stolen from the fur store Chuck Stuart managed.

Stuart's dark side now shadows living victims. His father, Charles Sr., and his mother, Dot, apparently were told by other

children of Chuck's involvement in Carol's murder just two days before his suicide.

Chuck spent his last night, Jan. 3, in a hotel room, avoiding police who by now were watching his suburban Reading home. Hours before, officers had heard Matthew describe how Chuck tossed him Carol's gucci bag containing the .38-caliber revolver and her jewellery, apparently just after the shootings. The bag was recovered from the same river as the gun.

Chuck scrawled out a note on hotel stationery saying he loved his family and could not handle the allegations about to be made about him. Just before dawn, he drove to Boston's Tobin Bridge.

There, he parked the \$22,000-Nissan Maxima he had bought with part of the \$82,000 insurance settlement from the publishing company where his wife worked as a tax attorney. He laid his note on the passenger seat, then

leaped into the cold waters of Boston Harbour.

Even in death, Stuart continued to fool people. The first word of his suicide prompted sympathy and sorrow from the Dimaitis.

"We were grieving for Chuck because we thought he killed himself through grief," said Carl Dimaiti. "Then, to find out from the police that he was a prime suspect, it was more than you can take."

Others also felt anger. Blacks say black victims never get the kind of attention paid the Stuaarts. They assert that the police squads who flooded the Mission Hill area, where the shootings were alleged to have taken place, ran roughshod over residents in their hunt for clues.

"When I ordered an aggressive police response... I wanted to send a strong signal... to show the city's outrage," Mayor Raymond Flynn said.

Three weeks after the murder, William Bennett, a 39-year-old paroled convict with a long record of violence, including the shooting of a police officer, was arrested and held on a warrant for a motor vehicle violation.

Bennett became the prime suspect in the Stuart case after grand jury witnesses said he had boasted of committing the crime.

Stuart's suicide cleared Bennett, but black leaders were furious. They asserted Bennett had been railroaded, that his and other blacks' constitutional rights had been violated. They accused law officers of being all too willing to narrow their investigation to the black community.

Paul Leary, first assistant district attorney of Suffolk county, retorted that black neighbourhood residents themselves had led police to Bennett as the no. 1 suspect.

"Folks, Charles Stuart took us all in," said Flynn.



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The ultimate driving machine

Economist sees loss to Arab states from investment rush to E. Europe

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Economic aid to Arab states like Tunisia, North Yemen and Algeria would probably stop as Western and Eastern Bloc countries pour funds into East Europe, a Palestinian economist said Monday.

Nabil Shaath, adviser to PLO leader Yasser Arafat, said highly trained East European workers would choose to work in Western Europe rather than Arab countries, and returning Arab labour from Europe would put additional pressure on the region.

He told 350 participants from Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates attending a two-day marketing course they must think of their role in East Europe.

"We must think of the role we can play in East Europe," he said. "I underline the contracting sector because Saudi contractors with Sudanese labour could invade these markets."

In the short term, the political and economic upheavals in East Europe were not in the interests of Arab states, he said.

But this could change if Arab nations formed a unified economic bloc to take advantage of new opportunities generated by the change, Shaath added.

"East Europe is a big prospective market for Gulf states in particular because they are the only Arab countries who can finance with their trade," Shaath, chairman of the Palestine National Council's political committee, said.

"We want all of Europe to become a market for Arab exports and investments and the only way we can do this is by becoming a

unified Arab bloc," he said. Shaath said Arab states had to take a back seat initially as East and West Europe concentrated on unifying their policies.

He said the single European market proposed for 1992 would at first create barriers for Arab exports. But the 12-nation grouping would be less likely to bow to political pressure from the United States, Shaath added.

"Europe will be able to give more support to the Palestinian question as a result of its independence from America," he said.

Shaath said Arab states had to change their marketing strategy from one based on import product replacement to an export-oriented strategy aimed at international consumers.

"Our problem is that we think of our exports as the excess of what we can sell locally... but if we make our products more competitive internationally we will also be able to compete with imports in our local markets," he said.

Shaath called for more Arab investment in technology and research, saying that in the past 20 years Arab states had not managed to successfully transfer Western technology.

"Unless we take in the modern technology now and develop our own we cannot really export anything nor can we find our place in the today's changing world," he said.

IMF official begins visit to Jordan today

AMMAN (J.T.) — The director of a training institute affiliated to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is due here Tuesday on a six-day visit to Jordan at the invitation of the Amman-based Arab Institute for Banking Studies.

The IMF official will meet with the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Said Nabulsi and Dr. Mohammad Saqqa, the institute's director, as well as Dr. Ali Atiq, resident representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Jordan.

His discussions will cover ways of developing IMF cooperation with Jordanian and Arab banking institutions, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The IMF official, it said, will deliver lectures at the institute, the CBJ and other centres dealing with IMF training and latest developments in IMF operations and programmes.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Monday, January 15, 1989 Central Bank official rates			
U.S. dollar	Buy	Sell	
Japanese yen (for 100)	650.0	636.0	113.4 114.5
Pound Sterling	1082.7	1093.5	342.3 345.7
Deutschemark	385.7	389.6	106.0 107.1
Swiss franc	435.0	439.4	51.9 52.4
			Belgian franc (for 10) 183.7 185.5

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.6685/95	U.S. dollars	
One U.S. dollar	1.1560/70	Canadian dollar	
	1.6835-42	Deutschemark	
	1.8985/95	Dutch guilders	
	1.4965/72	Swiss francs	
	35.26/30	Belgian francs	
	5.7230/80	French francs	
	1254/1255	Italian lire	
	145.43/55	Japanese yen	
	6.1220/70	Swedish crowns	
	6.4985/5035	Norwegian crowns	
	6.5225/75	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	415.60/416.10	U.S. dollars	

Avibras seeks 'concordata'

SAO PAULO (R) — One of Brazil's largest weapons makers has said it was seeking protection from its creditors because one of its clients, identified by sources as Iraq, had failed to pay a \$40 million bill. Avibras Industria Aeroespacial S.A. said the client, which it did not name, had owed \$40 million for more than a year. Sources at Avibras said the client was Iraq, which was a major buyer of Brazilian arms during its 1980-1988 war with Iran. Avibras, a private company, said it had \$100 million worth of equipment ready for shipment to the same client which was not shipped because of the outstanding debt. Avibras' debts total about \$240 million, sales director Pedro Vial said in a telephone interview. "Because of strong pressures from some suppliers and banks, we were forced to seek a concordata," which is similar to chapter XI in the United States, Vial said.

Ferranti announces big loss

LONDON (R) — British defence group Ferranti International Signal PLC has reported heavier than expected losses and unveiled new plans to solve its financial crisis. The group, which said last year it fallen victim to alleged fraud, reported a pre-tax loss of £15.4 million (\$25.6 million) in the six months to last Sept. 30. Ferranti says its problems stem from alleged fraudulent contracts entered into by its U.S. subsidiary, International Signal and Control Group (ISC), which it acquired in 1987. Discovery of the alleged fraud had made it over-dependent on bank finance, it said in a statement accompanying the results. Its net interest charge on debts nearly doubled to £21.4 million (\$35.6 million) from £11.4 million (\$19 million) in the same period the previous year. Net debt at Dec. 15 was £57.7 million (\$48.5 million), the statement said. The half-year results were also hit by lower profits from military business, including heavy losses in the United States, costs involved in cutting jobs in Britain and the costs of continuing to develop new non-military business.

Bangladesh continues to rely heavily on foreign assistance

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh remains as dependent as ever on foreign assistance and self-reliance is a distant dream after 18 years of independence, a leading economist has said.

"Though reduction in the magnitude of external dependence through generation of domestic savings has been the professed objective of successive political regimes in Bangladesh, the attainment of even a moderate degree of self-reliance remains a distant dream," Sultan Hafeez Rahman told an economic seminar.

He said the country now made little contribution to formulation of its own fundamental economic policies.

Its current adjustment programme, designed to restore the economy, "could even be inconsistent with long-run policy objectives and impair the country's strategic development options," he added. "This is a price Bangladesh pays for excessive dependence on foreign aid."

Bangladesh, a poor South Asian nation with an annual per capita income of only \$160, has over \$9 billion of foreign debt.

Debt servicing cost it 30.9 per cent of its export earnings in 1988-89 compared with 19.8 per cent in

1982-83, according to government statistics.

President Hossain Mohammad Ershad spoke of the need for more inflow of foreign aid to stimulate growth in low-income countries like Bangladesh.

"But unfortunately, development assistance from the industrialised nations has not reached the desired level," he said.

Bangladesh, with a population of about 110 million crammed into an area of 144,000 square kilometres, receives annual economic aid of around \$2 billion to

finance its development programmes and millions more as disaster relief.

In the early 1980s it embarked on a new economic policy known as the adjustment programme after experiencing a sharp decline in its economy and in aid flow.

The adjustment package included measures for mobilisation of domestic savings and reduction of public expenditure by phasing out subsidies and slashing public investment.

But a recent report from the U.N. Conference on Trade and

Development (UNCTAD) said the policy had failed to improve conditions for some of the poorest people of the world.

"The adjustment programme has contributed very little to furthering poverty alleviation and attaining human resources development targets," the report said.

"Poverty is widespread, 51 per cent of the population are below the internationally-defined poverty line, with 60 per cent in the rural areas living in absolute poverty," it concluded.

U.S. chain stores file for protection

NEW YORK (AP) — Campean Corp. Monday placed its Federated Department Stores Inc. and Allied Stores Corp. under U.S. bankruptcy court protection, allowing the retailers to keep operating while working out their financial troubles.

The decision to file for chapter 11 protection from creditors was made late Sunday by the boards of Federated, Allied, and Campean, which operate some 260 department stores in the United States, including Bloomingdale's, Rich's, Jordan Marsh and Lazarus.

It followed weeks of speculation in the retail trade over how Campean would deal with the problems of operating its debt-burdened store chains while continuing to pay suppliers.

Federated and Allied have combined debts of some \$8 billion, much of it accumulated when Campean acquired the two companies in the mid-1980s.

"The decision to seek chapter 11 relief was based on a conclusion that action was required at this time in order to preserve the operations strength and assets of the two department store companies while the corporate debt is restructured," Campean said in a news release.

Campean said the filing was made in the U.S. bankruptcy court for the southern district of Ohio. Federated and Allied are based in Cincinnati.

Under a chapter 11 filing, the companies can continue operations while recognising their finances.

Israeli farmers strike to protest hardships

TEL AVIV (R) — Farmers along Israel's northern border staged a strike Monday to protest economic hardships, saying Katyusha rockets would not drive them from their homes but poverty might.

Residents of 52 farming settlements stayed away from work and kept children home from school. Some burned tyres and blocked roads, drawing large numbers of police to disperse them, Israeli radio said.

"No boy, no family left the Galilee settlements because of Katyusha attacks or security but dozens left and I estimate dozens more will leave if we don't find an economic base," said Nissim Zivli, a representative of the agricultural cooperatives.

Border settlements are frequent targets of rocket attacks by Palestinian fighters or pro-Iranian militiamen in Lebanon.

The farmers are demanding higher government subsidies for eggs and chickens. But Agriculture Minister Avraham Kitz-Oz said in a television interview Sunday the farmers should diversify their economic base and rely less on agriculture.

"I definitely agree with the agricultural minister's call in principle that we have to vary the sources of employment in the area," Zivli said in an interview with Israeli radio.

Israel's communal farms, once the backbone of settlement in the Zionist state, are now saddled with multi-billion dollar debts.

The frontline farms were once a national priority, receiving additional government aid in recognition of "security risks" and the importance of agriculture.

Now farmers on the northern border accuse the government of ignoring them in favour of incentives for settlements in the occupied West Bank, home to a million Palestinians.

The radio reported Monday the apparent suicide of a farmer on the northern border. It would be the second suicide in a week among the northern farmers.

Post threatens action

Meanwhile, the Jerusalem Post threatened legal action Sunday against staff who quit in a dispute with the publisher, but the rebels dismissed the move as a "bullying tactic" to prevent them from starting a new Israeli daily.

The influential English-lan-

guage Post has been in turmoil since its editor resigned in December saying the Canadian Hollinger chain which bought the paper last year had infringed on his editorial freedom.

Thirty journalists, including most senior editors, resigned over the issue, demanding that Hollinger remove publisher Yehuda Levy, a reserve colonel appointed to manage the newspaper.

The Post said in a brief press release:

"The management of the Jerusalem Post has requested its attorneys to consider legal action against some of the persons who resigned from the paper this month, in view of their actions and words during and after their employment. The relevant material has been handed to the attorneys."

The statement did not elaborate.

Iran seeks to revive tourism

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iran is ready to accommodate some 300,000 tourists and earn more than \$210 million annually under the first stage of a tourism plan, a government official has said.

Mahdi Hashemi, director of the tourism department of the Mostafazan Foundation, told a news conference in Tehran the number could be doubled at a later stage, the official Islamic

Republic News Agency reported. The Mostafazan, or deprived, Foundation is a government welfare agency which operates its own tourist agency and other businesses to generate income for distribution to the poor.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Hashemi as saying the first batch of foreign tourists will arrive from Italy early in spring.

Negotiations were under way for other arrivals from Muslim and Third World countries, he added.

A separate report by Tehran Radio said plans for the exchange of tourists between Iran and the Soviet Union have been completed.

The radio quoted an unnamed transportation ministry official as saying tourists will be shuttled across the Caspian Sea.

Hashemi said the Azadi International Tourist Organisation, the tourism subsidiary of his foundation, operates 32 international standard hotels in Tehran and other cities.

After a decade of self-imposed isolation, Iran launched a drive recently to revive its once flourishing tourist industry to promote a better image and earn badly needed foreign currency.

Hashemi confirmed that the ultimate goal of attracting tourists was to increase revenue and achieve political and cultural objectives.



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

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MANALY

WHAT THE BANK ROBBER GOT WHEN THE SECURITY SYSTEM SOUNDED.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: CLEFT OAKEN FINISH INFUSE
Answer: It was off-season for fishing, which is why the sheriff made it this "OFF-FISH-AL" (official)

Peanuts

Mutt'n' Jeff

Andy Capp



Sports talks between the two Koreas fail

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Sports officials from South and North Korea failed again Monday to agree on procedures for forming a joint team for this year's Asian Games, closing the door on the talks, reports said.

Monday's meeting, the fourth since Dec. 1, broke down after each side accused the other of lack of sincerity in preparing for the September games in Beijing, according to South Korean reporters linked to the meeting.

Tense exchanges at the working-level meeting clouded prospects for the talks, scheduled to resume on Friday, said reports carried by all major South Korean news agencies.

"Their attitude today is very regrettable. We doubt whether the north has a real intention to form a single team," they quoted the chief South Korean working-level official, Im Tae-Soon, as saying.

North Korea's chief working-level delegate, Chang Woong, was quoted as telling reporters, "If the talks fail, the south should be held responsible."

Monday's meeting, at the truce village of Panmunjom inside the demilitarized zone

separating the two Koreas, was closed to the foreign news media.

Sports talks had earlier made steady progress. The two sides earlier agreed on a team name, flag, song and methods for selection and training of athletes.

But the negotiations bogged down last week when North Korea refused to sign a set of South Korean proposals blocking each side to fully implementing the details of agreements on forming a single team.

South Korean officials included a proposal for holding goodwill volleyball and ping-pong games before signing a formal agreement on a single team.

South Korean officials argued that such goodwill games were needed to build mutual trust and test whether North Korea genuinely wants to form a single team. During the negotiations, North Korea opposed any goodwill games.

South Korean officials expressed concern that North Korea might raise difficult technical or political issues at the last minute, blocking Seoul's participation in the Beijing games.

The deadline for entry in the games is June 22.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN:

Graf, Lendl move into the 2nd round

By Robert Kline
Reuter

MELBOURNE, Australia — Steffi Graf, the queen of women's tennis, was given a scare on Monday when little-known American teenager Carrie Cunningham traded hammer forehands for 75 minutes before succumbing 6-2, 7-5 in the first round of the Australian Open.

Graf, who has not dropped a set in winning two successive titles here, lost her touch for several games in the second set to present the left-handed Cunningham with a 5-2 lead.

But the moment of truth proved too much for the 1988 U.S. Open junior champion and the West German world number one conceded just five points before wrapping up victory in a thrilling match with two successive aces.

"It's everyone's nightmare to play Steffi in the first round but I was proud of the way I played," said Cunningham, 17. "I couldn't believe it when I was 5-2 up — I was so astonished I think that's what made me start making errors."

Graf was unfazed by her fright. "I'd never seen her before," the number one said. "She played well but it's only the first match of the tournament."

Ivan Lendl, the men's top seed and defending champion, found his best form elusive but also moved safely into the second round of the first grand slam tournament of the 1990s, beating American Jim Pugh 6-3, 6-2, 6-4.

On a low-key opening day when only Lendl among the big name men was in action, the main casualties were Tim Mayotte and Emilio Sanchez, seeded sixth and seventh.

Mayotte lost for the second time in six days to fellow-American Pete Sampras, going down 7-6, 6-7, 4-6, 7-5, 12-10 in a

marathon lasting four hours 45 minutes.

Spain's Sanchez was earlier undone by big-serving Frenchman Jean Flaurian, world-ranked 57, who registered a surprisingly comfortable 6-2, 6-4, 6-4 success.

Graf started the 1990s as she had left the 1980s, winning the first game to love as her forehand drew gasps of admiration from the centre court crowd.

She took the first game with a delightful drop shot but Cunningham showed she was not to be steamrollered by breaking back immediately. A double fault by the 17-year-old let Graf take the next game and she pocketed the first set in 30 minutes.

When Cunningham broke for a 3-1 lead in the second set, Graf's second serve suddenly lost all conviction, her timing appeared to desert her and the American smelted an unexpected chance.

She raced to a 5-2 lead, moving Graf around the court like few

have done in the past two years. But her nerve failed when serving for the set at 5-4, shots started to spray all over the court and the crowd knew the moment had passed.

Lendl also never approached his best form against Pugh.

Wearing a legionnaires-type hat to ward off the sun, Lendl said his headgear was influenced by his experience last year when he came close to collapse through heat exhaustion in his semifinal against Austrian Thomas Muster.

Mayotte signed his own death warrant by serving double faults on the final two points of the match.

Despite earlier saving himself with an ace on his second serve on match point against him, Mayotte was left reeling his frail second serve which caused him to serve 11 double faults in the protracted final set.

"It's a real Achilles heel for

me," said Mayotte, who had appeared well beaten at 4-1 down in the final set before rain caused a 26-minute interruption.

"It's tough because I've trained as hard as I've ever trained for two months and was very excited at coming down here. That's the way the chips fall, I guess."

The 18-year-old Sampras, who initially came to prominence by beating Mats Wilander in last year's U.S. Open, admitted the match could easily have swung the other way.

"I was very lucky," he said. "But most of the guys on the tour know Tim has a pretty shaky second serve, especially in tight situations."

Among the better-known players to fall was Israel's Amos Mansdorf who, in contrast to Lendl, found his temperament too low when his match against Austrian Alex Antonitsch was briefly held up.

HOROSCOPE

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Try to eliminate the confusion that exists around you and your projects and come to a real meeting of the minds with associates in business.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Put yourself in the position to go on jaunts with interesting friends. Outside entertainment with your family will negate any tensions that are present.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Put your talents into effect in detail at your business responsibilities. A new report will now come into being between you and your attachment.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Work out a better course of action to have your home run smoothly. Concentrating on romance now will bring much happiness.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY JANUARY 16, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

July 21) Acquire the various knowledge from experts that will aid your practical activities. Your home will be where your heart is now.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You can wind up a business or money matter now and start a new one. Back your attachment in the putting across of that person's talents.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A time to have meetings with family to arrange long term finances. Travel as much as possible today with your attachment.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Do something special at home that will bring you excitement there. Get some attractive

gift for your loved one. SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Outside activities of a social nature should be pleasant and encouraged. Let your attachment be aware of your views in more tolerant terms.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 19) Don't get involved in a bitter argument between two close friends. Bring into open now that special favour you can do for your attachment.

AQUARIUS: (January 20 to February 19) Listening to the advice of too many friends now can be puzzling to you. Make your home available to newcomers who can help you in important ways.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Be open with your family about other individuals coming into your home. Give your attachment some well deserved praise.

Maradona's belief in miracles gets a boost

DIEGO Maradona was able to face his daughter with his head held high and his faith in miracles intact on Sunday after Napoli hit last minute goals to stage off a seemingly inevitable defeat at a lowly Udinese and stay top of the Italian League.

Napoli were 2-0 down to their little fancied opposition with just three minutes remaining when the Argentine World Cup captain scored from the penalty spot in the 88th minute and then set up an amazing equaliser as the match entered injury time.

The stocky midfielder sent a pass across goal for Giancarlo Corradini to scramble into the back of the net.

By then defending champions Internazionale, 3-0 winners against Bologna, had already started celebrating a result they believed had finally toppled their southern rivals.

"When I hit that penalty I thought it would be useless," Maradona said, admitting that he had almost lost hope when Luca Martini scored Udinese's second goal in the 87th minute.

"I thought I would have to tell my daughter that we had suffered a nasty defeat. Now I can tell her about a miracle."

Napoli trainer Alberto Bigon was equally grateful to fortune for saving his team from their second defeat of the season.

"I feel as if we were saved by a miracle after risking going under ... when Udinese went 2-0 up I had given up all hope."

It was the fifth time this season that Napoli had pulled back late goals to save themselves from the brink of defeat and retain the slot

they gained on October 1 as league leaders.

But with only one point separating them from a resurgent Internazionale, who wrapped up their victory in 16 minutes, and with European Cup holders AC Milan moving steadily up the table, Napoli's position looks increasingly under threat.

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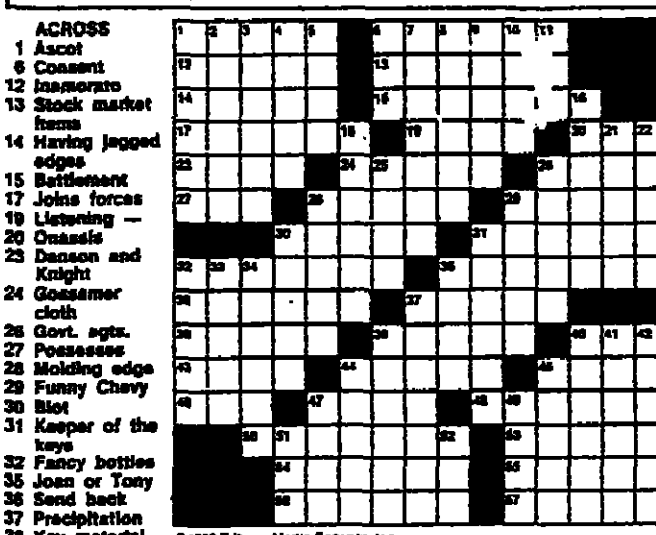
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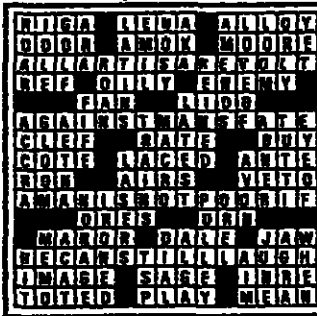
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THE Daily Crossword by Fran Rogus



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Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **PHILADELPHIA** Tel: 634144

RAGE TO KILL

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **NIJOUR** Tel: 675571

Ahmad Zaki - Yusra
in
One Woman is Not Enough (Arabic)

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 674111

SUMMER SCHOOL

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Bulgaria Communists to give up monopoly

SOFIA (R) — Bulgaria's Communist leaders agreed Monday to abandon their 45-year-old monopoly on power and offered an open dialogue on democracy with all parties.

Parliament agreed unanimously to end the party's leading role but postponed a formal vote on changing the constitution until the end of its session Monday or Tuesday.

"We are ready to give up our monopoly guaranteed by law, to study pluralism as a normal state," leading Communist Party politician Andrei Lukin told the National Assembly.

"We are ready to conduct an open dialogue with all social and political forces without discrimination," he said.

The move follows the scrapping of similar clauses by Hungary, Poland, East Germany and Czechoslovakia, which like Bulgaria have promised free elections this year.

The assembly, a rubber stamp parliament under disgraced leader Todor Zhivkov, voted in principle to delete from the constitution the key clause enshrining the role of the party as the "guiding force" in government.

It also agreed in principle to scrap a second clause forcing the smaller Agrarian Union into a ruling coalition with the Communists.

A handful of demonstrators carrying pro-democracy placards paraded outside parliament watched by a few police.

This was a far cry from the last time the assembly met to consider the leading role of the party in December. Then, 40,000 angry demonstrators massed outside the

at defusing tension between Bulgarians and the country's large ethnic Turkish minority.

It is also expected to debate an amnesty for ethnic Turks and other Muslims punished for refusing to change Islamic names to Bulgarian ones during a cultural assimilation programme imposed by Zhivkov.

Deep-seated ethnic rivalry, dating back to 500 years of Ottoman rule, boiled over into Bulgarian nationalist protests when the government, in a move approved by the reformist opposition, restored Muslim rights last month.

Sunday's rally, which Western diplomats described as the opposition's largest show of strength, demanded the resignation of Prime Minister Georgi Atanasov for his role in the assimilation programme. The diplomats said it was possible that he could be ousted at Monday's session.

Opposition leaders at the rally also called for full free elections planned for May to be postponed until November to allow more time for preparation.

"Elections in May are impossible for us because the Communists are the only organised party and they would win," opposition leader Zhelev told Western journalists.

Instead, the opposition wants partial elections in May to contest seats still held by parliamentarians compromised under Zhivkov, who was ousted in November.

The opposition umbrella group, the Union of Democratic Forces (UDF), said it would present the demands at round-table talks between government and opposition which start Tuesday.

Amnesty accuses Hong Kong of mistreating boat people

HONG KONG (Agencies) — Vietnamese boat people in Hong Kong suffer beatings by security forces, and many could risk political persecution when they are forced back to their Communist homeland, Amnesty International charged Monday.

The London-based human rights group called on the Hong Kong government to stop its forced repatriation programme, which began in December.

The fundamental rights of people who face a genuine risk of persecution are being violated," said the report, which was based on a recent fact-finding mission to Hong Kong.

The government of this British colony had no immediate comment, but Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd of Britain said in a speech that Hong Kong must "empty the camps as quickly as possible."

"Hong Kong has shouldered this burden for too long," he said. Amnesty accused the Hong Kong government of mistreating the 31 boat people who were forcibly returned to Vietnam in December.

It quoted witnesses as saying security forces dragged them

from the Chi Ma Wan detention centre in a dawn raid on Oct. 31, using kicks, beatings and choke holds. They were then taken to another detention centre, the Phoenix House.

Early Dec. 12, hundreds of security forces in riot gear brought them to the international airport.

During that operation, reporters did not see any evidence of brutality.

The report also charged the government with quashing investigations of official misconduct in the camps, citing two incidents when 200 boat people were allegedly beaten and kicked by security forces last year.

In the High Island detention centre, it said, many boat people are routinely locked in empty subdivided cargo containers for several days.

The report said many Vietnamese feared that if they spoke up about abuses, they faced "possible retribution by the police and risked unfavourable treatment in the screening process."

Amnesty said Hong Kong had told the organisation by letter that the British colony's Governor Sir David Wilson had de-

cided an independent inquiry into allegations of ill-treatment was not justified.

Hong Kong is playing reluctant host to nearly 56,000 Vietnamese boat people. More than 43,000 of them are considered by the Hong Kong government to be illegal immigrants, to be deported unless they can prove they are genuine refugees under United Nations criteria.

Amnesty International said the screening procedure intended to distinguish genuine refugees from those who are economic migrants, which was introduced as a deterrent measure on June 16, 1988, was critically flawed.

It cited the example of a young Vietnamese Christian man whose bid to be classified as a genuine refugee was rejected despite his facing a five-year jail term for "crimes against the state" in Vietnam.

"The young man, whose name is not given to protect confidentiality, had earlier studied in Czechoslovakia. Because he became involved in the human rights movement, he was briefly jailed and deported back to Vietnam."

Britain: No shoot-to-kill policy

BELFAST (R) — Britain has denied having a "shoot-to-kill" policy in Northern Ireland after the relatives of three robbers shot dead by undercover soldiers said they had been mistaken for Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerrillas.

The three, petty criminals with a long record of convictions, were killed Saturday while raiding a betting office armed only with imitation guns.

The shootings provoked an outcry with Irish Foreign Minister Gerry Collins demanding a full report, British opposition politicians calling for a detailed inquiry and local nationalists claiming they were killed in cold blood.

Northern Ireland Minister of State Brian Mawhinney said Sun-

day: "There is no shoot-to-kill policy for the security forces in Northern Ireland. The only people who are conducting a shoot-to-kill policy in Northern Ireland are the terrorists."

Sinn Fein, political wing of the IRA, urged the human rights group Amnesty International to investigate the shootings. It said the men had no connections with the IRA, which is fighting to oust Britain from Northern Ireland.

Sinn Fein likened their deaths to the 1988 killings in Gibraltar by British Special Air Services (SAS) commandos of three unarmed IRA guerrillas on an abortive bombing mission.

The sister of one of the Belfast victims told reporters: "We believe the SAS were tipped off that

it was going to be the IRA to rob the bookmakers. That is why the three boys were never given a chance."

Mrs. Harriet Larkin said of her brother John McNeill: "He was no angel but he was no terrorist either. They didn't give him a chance to surrender. They were not interested in taking prisoners. He spent most of his life thieving and stealing cars. He didn't have a gun."

Another of the victims, Eddie Hale, had been shot in both elbows, knees and ankles by the IRA in 1987, their traditional punishment for petty criminals engaged in what the guerrilla group calls "anti-social behaviour."

Rushdie says he is not an enemy of Islam

LONDON (Agencies) — Author Salman Rushdie, in hiding for almost a year after his novel "The Satanic Verses" drew Iranian death threats, says he has not betrayed his Islamic heritage.

"I am not the enemy of my own people," he said in a telephone interview published Monday in the Guardian newspaper. "I do not feel like the enemy of my people."

Rushdie, 42, born to Muslim parents in India, declined to comment on his security situation but said: "You shouldn't assume that I have very much freedom at all."

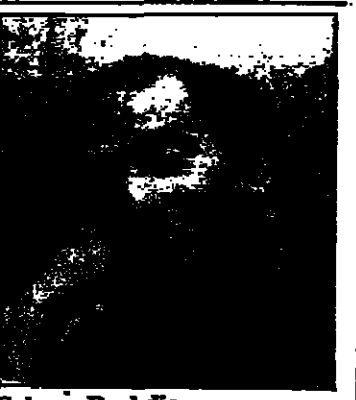
lash Khomeini called on Muslims to kill him by blasphemy.

Rushdie told the Guardian that hostility against him was misplaced and said he had received many letters of support from Muslims who had read the book.

"One would wish the thing to come to an end," he said. "But I'm not the maker of the problem."

"I think if some of the people who protested about the book took the trouble to read it, they would see that it is not unsympathetic to them."

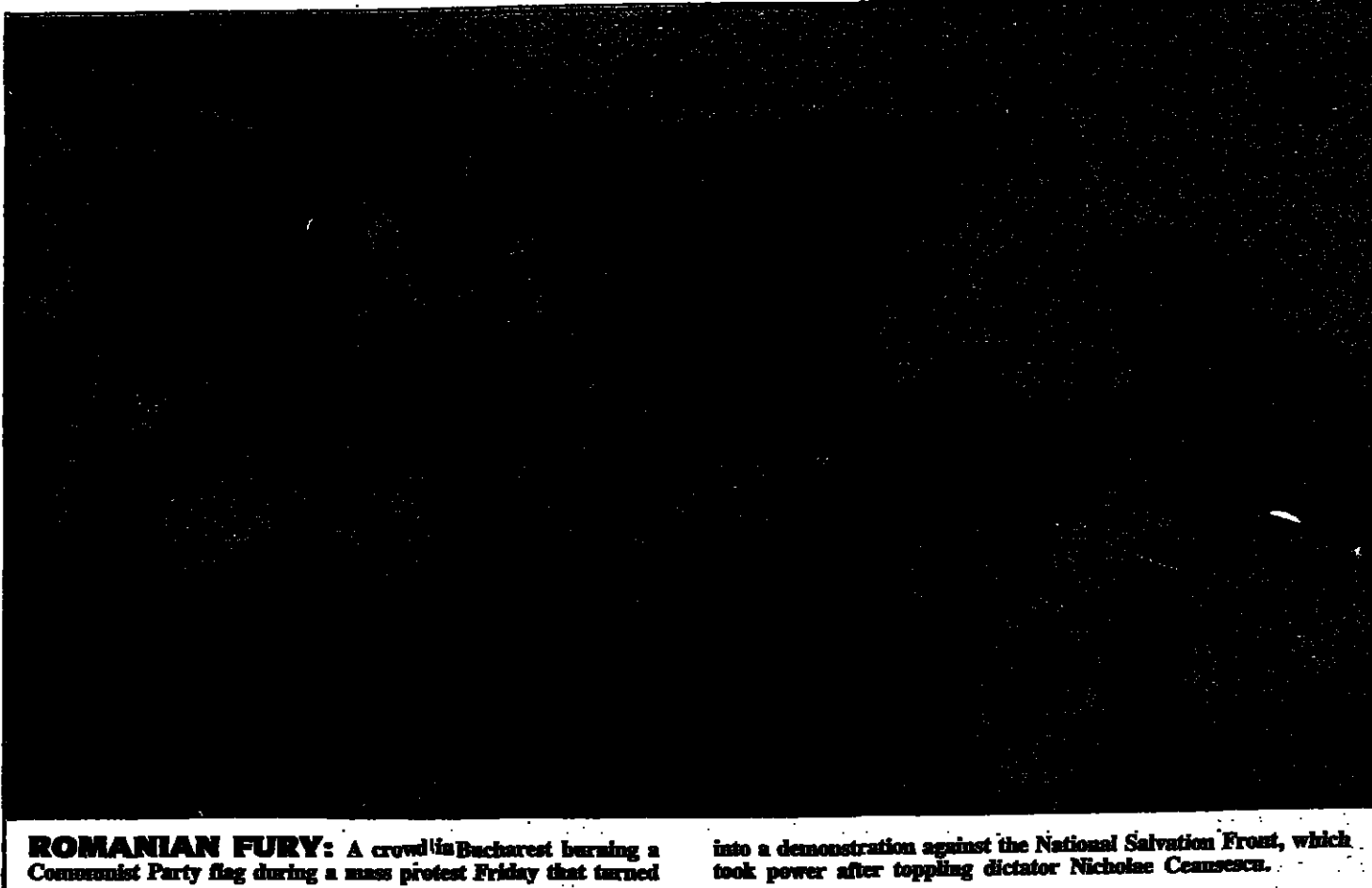
Publication of "The Satanic Verses" sparked Muslim anger worldwide and Rushdie, who has lived in Britain since he was 13, said he did not think he would be



Salman Rushdie

more secure by moving to another country. "One of the things this has shown is that the world is very small," he said.

Since going into hiding, Rushdie has written book reviews for British and American newspapers.



ROMANIAN FURY: A crowd in Bucharest burning a Communist Party flag during a mass protest Friday that turned into a demonstration against the National Salvation Front, which took power after toppling dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

Manila steps up hunt for coup leaders

MANILA (Agencies) — Philippine police Monday announced the capture of a rebel military leader and the armed forces chief predicted others involved in last month's bloody coup attempt would be seized "one by one."

President Corason Aquino told reporters she had ordered army Chief of Staff General Renato de Villa to give priority to the capture of leaders still at large following the Dec. 1-7 putsch.

Aquino said the fear of a further coup attempt would remain until all the plotters were brought to justice.

Police said they had arrested retired Lieutenant-Colonel Billy Bibit, chief of customs intelligence, who is listed by the military as one of 15 leaders of the insurrection.

"The capture will further reduce the capability of the coup plotters to effectively mount another large-scale offensive," De Villa told reporters.

"The manhunt for others is still going on nationwide and the armed forces expect to capture them one by one," he said.

Bibit admitted involvement in the failed army insurrection when he was presented to reporters Monday, two days after his capture in Manila's southeastern district of Taguig.

"It's a matter of conviction," he said when asked why he joined the mutiny, the sixth and most serious coup attempt Aquino has faced in her four years in office.

Among those still at large are three generals and seven colonels, including top leader Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, who carries a reward of one million pesos (\$44,500), and ex-Brigadier General Edgardo Abenina.

A provincial governor meanwhile threatened to lead a "people power" uprising if Aquino's administration removes him for alleged links to the failed coup.

Presidential spokesman Adolf

Azcuna said the government was determined to prosecute the governor.

Gov. Rodolfo Aguinaldo, a former lieutenant colonel in the Philippine Constabulary, said he may order his constituents in northern Cagayan province to attack corrupt government officials.

"Where would I go if I am suspended or expelled?" Aguinaldo asked in a telephone interview with the AP from his office in Tuguegarao, 320 kilometres northeast of Manila.

"I have only my principles. They (government officials) are harassing me. What will I do? I will fight, fight and fight. That's it," he said.

Local government Secretary Luis Santos suspended Aguinaldo from office last week after the governor allegedly sent troops to Manila during the failed coup.

Aguinaldo has refused to vacate his post and filed a civil suit

challenging the suspension order. He also refused to comment on allegations he helped mutinous soldiers in the coup attempt, which left at least 113 people dead and over 300 wounded.

Azcuna said the Department of Justice has subpoenaed Aguinaldo to appear at a preliminary hearing on rebellion charges against him on Jan. 26 in Manila.

"This shows that the government, though not as fast as perhaps our instincts would want us to (move) ... is determined to throw the book at this recalcitrant local official," Azcuna said.

He said the suspension order was an administrative measure while the rebellion charge filed by Santos with the Justice Department was a criminal case against Aguinaldo.

Under Philippine law, a preliminary investigation has to be undertaken by government prosecutors before formal charges are filed in court.

35 killed in Sinhalese violence

COLOMBO (AP) — Police found the bodies of 17 Sinhalese men dumped along a roadside after they had apparently been shot by pro-government vigilantes, witnesses said Monday.

They were among the latest victims of the two-and-a-half-year-old struggle between Sinhalese radicals and the Sinhalese-controlled government.

Reporters in Matala, 105 kilometres northeast of Colombo, said 17 bodies of men ranging in age between 18 and 35 were recovered Sunday from a five-kilometre stretch of road there.

The reporters, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the men had apparently been shot by vigilante squads in the continuing crackdown against the People's Liberation Front, an ultra-nationalist Sinhalese guerrilla group.

Human rights organisations say the vigilantes operate with the tacit support of President Ranasinghe Premadasa's government and regularly kill civilians suspected of links with the front.

The government also blames the killings on vigilantes, but says they operate without government support.

Sinhalese militants have been trying since 1987 to overthrow the government, accusing it of making too many concessions to Sri Lanka's Tamil minority in trying to end a Tamil secession.

Military officials in Colombo could not confirm the Matala deaths.

But the officials, who cannot be identified under briefing rules, said eight male bodies were found Monday in Kandy, 90 kilometres northeast of Colombo. They said the men had been shot by vigilantes.

A government statement said five members of a Sinhalese family were shot and killed Sunday by the front in Moneragala, a southern provincial town.

In the centre of the island, three Sinhalese radicals were shot to death by troops in response to a guerrilla attack at Kudumulla, the statement said. It did not give details of either episode.

More than 6,000 people have been killed in the struggle between the People's Liberation Front and the government since 1987.

Mrs. King calls on Bush to help unify America

ATLANTA (AP) — Slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. was remembered in church services nationwide on the eve of the Monday holiday, which would have been his 61st birthday.

His widow, Coretta Scott King, delivered her annual "State of the Dream" address Sunday at Ebenezer Baptist Church, the church where her husband was pastor, before about 1,000 people, including such civil rights leaders as the Revs. Jesse Jackson and Joseph Lowery.

Mrs. King reflected on the dramatic social changes of 1989 in other parts of the world and her husband's philosophy of civil disobedience.

"The cataclysmic changes we have seen in Eastern Europe, in China and in South Africa since last year have deep roots in this very pulpit," she said.

Mrs. King, noting that U.S. President George Bush is to deliver his State of the Union address in a few days, recalled a State of the Union speech in the 1960s by then-President Lyndon Johnson.

Johnson "captured the imagination of the American people

just by saying three little words, 'We shall overcome,'" Mrs. King said.

"A quarter of a century later, President Bush has the same opportunity," she said. "He can help unify America if he will break with the past by ending the arms race and working for programme to provide jobs and educational opportunities for all Americans."

"If he will avoid the kind of military entanglements that destroyed (Johnson's) war on poverty, he can unify America and lead the world to a higher destiny," Mrs. King said.

Jack Kemp, U.S. secretary of housing and urban development, presented Mrs. King with a large photograph of a Chinese student standing in Beijing's Tiananmen Square holding a sign reading, "We shall overcome."

Earlier, Jackson, a former Democratic presidential contender and former King aide, spoke to textile workers in Louisville in central Georgia from the steps of the Jefferson county courthouse within sight of an old slave auction block.

He urged all workers to stand up against their bosses for a living

wage and decent working conditions.

In New York City, Mayor David Dinkins, the first black to hold that office, told about 400 people at Judson Memorial Church about King's struggle for equality and the need to continue.

"Dr. King took us to the dawn of a new era," Dinkins said. "It is up to us to push on into the bright light of day."

"Dr. King dreamed of an inclusive society, where people would be judged by their good will and their good deeds," he said. "That is my dream for our city."

King, the son of an Atlanta Baptist minister, led non-violent marches in the south in the 1950s and 1960s in a quest to end discrimination against blacks and other minorities. He was assassinated on April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tennessee.

His teachings were honoured Sunday in Miami as about 100 to 150 Haitian exiles staged a peaceful demonstration for democracy in their Caribbean island nation. Demonstrators called for a halt in U.S. aid to Prosper Avril's government and that Avril, on a trade mission to Taiwan, be kept from returning home.

U.S. and cocaine countries prepare war on drug trade

SANTA CRUZ, Bolivia (Agencies) — The United States and South America's cocaine-producing countries Sunday drew up battle plans for a common war on the billion dollar drug trade involving increased military action and U.S. funding.

The offensive agreed on will be officially announced at a summit between U.S. President George Bush and the leaders of Colombia, Peru and Bolivia Feb. 15 in Cartagena, Colombia.

The first coordinated strategy among the three producers of the world's cocaine and the United States, the largest market, will attack the trade on all fronts, from eradication of coca leaf plantations to stricter measures to reduce consumption and block the laundering of drug money, officials said.

The initiative follows the Bush administration's anti-drug plan unveiled in September that announced a massive increase in cash to the three countries. So far only Colombia has declared an

all-out war on the drug lords whose powerful cartels refine, transport and sell most of the cocaine.

A one-paragraph news release issued by chief delegates to the pre-summit meeting in Santa Cruz said they "achieved the goals" set for them and expected the four countries' presidents would adopt a "joint, integral and coordinated strategy against the serious problem of illegal drugs and their economic and social effects."

In a speech at the meeting's pre-dawn conclusion, Bolivian Foreign Minister Carlos Iturralde sketched out the agreement in general terms.

He said it recognised the three South American countries have pledged themselves to a full-fledged military campaign against the cocaine trade. In turn, the United States recognises these countries need more U.S. economic aid.

The cocaine trade, although illegal, provides a substantial in-

come to many residents of these developing countries.

Iturralde said the accord represented "an integral commitment by the four countries, which have proposed carrying out a frontal and unstoppable assault on narcotics trafficking."

Iturralde's address came at 4:30 a.m., after wrangling forced a lengthy final session. Delegates said the delay was prompted by arguments over how U.S. assistance should be directed and what conditions would be attached to it.

The United States insists that the flow of aid money depend on a country's dedication and performance in the anti-drug effort. The U.S. delegation chief, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Michael Skol, told reporters at the meeting's end that he was happy with the agreement.

"We are very satisfied," Skol said. "We have prepared the way for a very successful summit." He declined to elaborate.

C8LUMN

Instinct to fight

PITTSBURGH, Pennsylvania (AP) — A robber who punched the manager of a small general store did not realise the 72-year-old man standing by the newspaper stand was a former light heavyweight champion. Former boxer Billy Conn jumped into the struggle and tried to break up the robbery, but the thief got away Wednesday with about \$80 from the store, police said. Conn and the robber ended up on the floor and the thief got away after dumping the newspaper rack on the boxer's legs, said Conn's wife, Mary Louise, who ran out of the store to summon help. "My instinct was to get help. Billy's instinct was to fight," she said. Conn declined to talk about the incident. As a boxer, he won 63, lost 11 and fought one draw from 1935 to 1948.

Prisoners do a better job

RALEIGH, North Carolina (AP) — The telephone number for tourists interested in vacation information is being answered by people who are not going anywhere. Working out of a cramped room at the correctional institution for women in Raleigh, six inmates are taking 700 calls a day, a number that will grow in the next three months as people plan summer vacations and respond to state advertisements. The inmates, working for the highest prison wage of \$1 a day, three weeks ago replaced the two-to-four state employees who used to answer the calls. The idea was to save the state \$40,000 a year, but officials say the prisoners, with the help of 14 other inmates who stuff envelopes with brochures and maps, also are getting out more information than state employees said. Inmates and their overseer expressed satisfaction with the programme in interviews with the Charlotte Observer. "I never dreamed I'd be sitting in prison, talking to people all over the world," said Rochelle Daniels, 31, who is serving a 30-year sentence for murder.

Name spells trouble

MIAMI BEACH, Florida (AP) — Is southern Florida big enough for two Manuel Noriega? Manuel E. Noriega, a U.S. navy veteran living in Miami Beach, is not certain. Noriega says he has been bothered by harassing telephone calls from people who apparently have him confused with his notorious namesake. "They have been very nasty calls. I try to explain, 'look, you're talking to the wrong guy,'" said the 84-year-old native of Mexico. He is the only Manuel Noriega listed in the telephone book covering Miami, where deposed Panamanian ruler Manuel Antonio Noriega was arraigned last week on drug trafficking charges.

Accord for San Francisco?

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Bongos and cable car bells will not do, says a band that insists the sound of an accordion, best distills the essence of San Francisco. Musicians with the group called Those Darn Accordions serenaded Mayor Art Agnos outside city hall Monday as the city weighed a proposal to proclaim the humble, pleated bellows the city's official musical instrument. "There should be an official city instrument because we have official city songs and we need an instrument to play them on. It should be the accordion because of its rich history here and because it was invented here," said Tom Torriglia, a band member leading the effort. Besides, said Torriglia of the instrument, "it's a good way to meet girls."

Global weather (major world cities)

	MIN.		MAX.		
	°C	F	°C	F	Weather
AMSTERDAM	05	41	09	48	Cloudy
ATHENS	08	46	17	63	Cloudy
BANGKOK	08	46	15	59	Cloudy
BANGKOK	25	77	38	101	Clear
Buenos Aires	23	73	33	95	Clear
CAIRO	07	45	17	63	Clear
CHICAGO	02	29	07	45	Clear
COPENHAGEN	01	34	03	37	Rain
FRANKFURT	01	34	04	38	Cloudy
GENEVA	01	34	04	38	Cloudy
HONG KONG	17	63	20	68	Rain
HONG KONG	01	34	07	45	Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	07	45	12	54	Cloudy
LONDON	05	41	07	45	Cloudy
MADRID	01	34	12	54	Clear
MEXICO	19	66	31	88	Clear
MONTREAL	08	16	04	25	Snow
MOSCOW	20	04	20	04	Cloudy
NEW DELHI	11	50	20	68	Cloudy
NEW YORK	00	32	02	35	Cloudy
PARIS	05	41	08	46	Cloudy
ROME	02	28	10	50	Cloudy
SYDNEY	19	66	21	70	Cloudy
TOKYO	01	34	06	43	Cloudy
VIENNA	02	35	02	35	Cloudy